

Jordan Times

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'Bomb hoax' on Israel-bound plane

BELGRADE (AP) — A Sabena jetliner en route to Israel with 147 people on board landed at Delgrade's airport Sunday after the Belgian officials said. But Sabena spokesman Patrick du Bois said the 136 passengers were checked after the plane landed and that "none showed any indication of" being a "terrorist." There were 11 crew members aboard. "Our hypothesis now is that it was a false alarm," he said from Brussels. Sabena said Flight SN203 from Brussels to Tel Aviv was diverted after an airline official in Tel Aviv received the warning as the plane was flying over the Adriatic. Mr. Du Bois said an anonymous caller said only that "there are four passengers on board who will hijack the plane within 30 minutes." He said there was no indication of who made the call. In Belgrade, police said airport officials said the Airbus 310 asked if it could land and was granted permission.

Russian navy fires officers

MOSCOW (AP) — The commander of the Russian navy fired at least three officers after an inquiry into the deaths from malnutrition of naval cadets stationed in the Russian Far East, the ITAR-TASS news agency said Sunday. At least four cadets died and another 86 were hospitalized last month at the Pacific training base of Russky Island, near the port of Vladivostok, 6,400 kilometres east of Moscow. The ITAR-TASS report said Admiral Felix Gromov ordered the removal of three officers and senior medical personnel for "failure to take measures to prepare the military township for wintering, and for lapses in the welfare support and social protection of personnel." Conditions were always tough in the Soviet military, and its Russian successors are having to cope with budget cuts, high inflation and a breakdown in regular supply lines.

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Kuwaiti speaker gets Iranian message

KUWAIT (AP) — Parliament Speaker Ahmad Al Saddoun received an "important and urgent" letter from his Iranian counterpart Natiq Nouri, press reports said Sunday. Al Watan newspaper said the Iranian ambassador to Kuwait, Hussein Sadiqi, delivered the letter to Mr. Saddoun. The ambassador told the daily the letter was about cooperation between the two countries in the interest of Muslims worldwide, in addition to the issues of the 400 Palestinians Israel expelled to southern Lebanon and the suffering of Muslims in war-torn Bosnia-Herzegovina. The letter is another sign of post-Gulf war warming in relations between the emirate and the Islamic republic.

Gendarmerie officer killed in Algeria

ALGIERS (R) — Gunmen killed a sub-lieutenant of Algeria's gendarmerie outside his brother's house in Algiers, the force said Sunday. A further three men were killed in two other weekend ambushes, taking to 23 the official death toll in the past week in a battle between the authorities and Muslim fundamentalists. The gendarmerie said Sub-Lieutenant Beladji Abdoul Ouahab was gunned down in Djenane Mebrak, a southeastern suburb, on Saturday night. Two men were killed and a third wounded when gunmen opened fire on them in Ouled Yaich, the gendarmerie, quoted by the official news agency APS, said. Ouled Yaich is a small community, about 50 kilometres south of the capital. It is north of Blida, which "like Algiers, and other neighbouring regions, is under indefinite night curfew."

Far-right surges in German local poll

BONN (R) — The far-right Republicans made strong gains in local elections in the West German state of Hesse on Sunday, winning nearly 10 per cent of the vote in Frankfurt, computer projections showed. The Republicans were set to get between 7.7 and 8.2 per cent of the vote in 33 cities and districts in the prosperous state, projections by several television stations said. In Frankfurt, Germany's financial capital, they were poised to enter the city council at their first attempt with about 9.6 per cent of the vote, giving them around 10 of the 93 seats. The big losers were the Social Democrats (SPD), while Chancellor Helmut Kohl's Christian Democrats (CDU) also slipped overall but looked set to replace the SPD as the largest party on Frankfurt's city council. The SPD plunged around 7.5 per cent from the last elections in 1989 to a projected 37.3 per cent of the vote while the CDU slid 2.4 per cent to 31.9 per cent.

Tehran mayor denounces pollution

NICOSIA (R) — Tehran residents each inhale an average of half a gramme of lead every day and pollution in the Iranian capital is "alarming," the city's mayor said Sunday. Gholamhossein Karbaschi, quoted by Iran's IRNA news agency, blamed cars for 75 per cent pollution in the capital city of up to 10 million people. "Each Tehranian inhales an average of half a gramme of poisonous lead every day," he said at a tree-planting ceremony. IRNA did not say how he had arrived at the figure. Unleaded petrol is not available in Iran. Motorists, most with old cars, have to use the more polluting leaded variety.

Gulf states' budget deficits doubled

ABU DHABI (AP) — The combined 1992 budget deficits of the six Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) countries doubled to \$7.7 billion in comparison with \$3.8 billion in 1991, according to statistics made available Sunday. The statistics, released by the GCC headquarters of the Riyadh headquarters of the GCC, received by official authorities here, reported an increase of \$13.6 billion over the 1990 combined deficit of \$14.1 billion for Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Qatar, Bahrain, Oman and the United Arab Emirates. Saudi Arabia's deficit was \$8 billion against \$6.6 billion in 1990 and Kuwait's was nearly \$16 billion against \$3.8 billion.

Afghan factions sign peace pact

ISLAMABAD (AP) — Afghanistan's rebel and government leaders agreed Sunday to a power-sharing plan to end the fighting in their homeland. Afghan President Burhanuddin Rabbani and his archrival, Gulbuddin Hekmatyar, a Muslim fundamentalist, will share power and appoint a cabinet, said presidential spokesman Mohammad Aziz Murad. A ceasefire is to take effect immediately.

But before the pact was signed, fighting erupted anew in the Afghan capital, Kabul, between well-armed rival factions. The agreement was reached in a marathon overnight negotiating session. It was seen largely as a face-saving pact for Pakistan, which has been mediating the peace talks.

After talking throughout the night Saturday, the leaders of all 10 groups that helped overthrow the communist regime last April accepted the pact. The Afghan leaders also agreed to form an election commission and hold a grand council within eight months to draft a constitution. The agreement envisions general elections in 1994.

Since the ouster of the Soviet-backed communists, a violent power struggle between rebel factions has killed an estimated 5,000 people and wounded thousands more. Thousands of rockets have rained on Kabul and an estimated 750,000 people have fled the city. —During five days of talks last week, there was considerable pressure from the rebels' former allies — Pakistan, Iran and Saudi Arabia.

Pakistan's Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif, the architect of the peace talks, said the ceasefire will be monitored by the Organisation of Islamic Conference (OIC) and representatives of each of the 10 rebel leaders. "We will ask the OIC to play a direct role in the peace process," he said.

Throughout the talks, the most contentious cabinet post appeared to be that of defence minister. The agreement calls for the

announcement of a cabinet within 15 days. It also provides for the formation of a defence council comprised of two representatives of each of the 10 parties, which is to assume the responsibilities of the defence minister until the final cabinet is named.

The council will also begin forming a national army and take possession of all heavy weapons within range of Kabul.

But almost immediately after signing the agreement, Mr. Hekmatyar appeared to be challenging these provisions by insisting that he should appoint the defence minister.

Mr. Rabbani had wanted Ahmad Shah Masoud to remain as defence minister, which he was held since the insurgents overran Kabul in April.

But Hekmatyar argued that no single rebel group should control both the presidency and the Defence Ministry.

"It is my job to appoint the defence minister," Mr. Hekmatyar told reporters after signing the five-page document.

The Afghan leaders and Mr. Sharif were expected to travel to Saudi Arabia, the site of Islam's holiest shrines, to swear allegiance to the agreement.

More than a half-dozen ceasefires have been signed since the rebels took power 10 months ago, and none of the rebel groups seemed to pay attention to the latest truce.

In Kabul, government forces battled Mr. Hekmatyar's Hezbe Islami and its Shiite ally, Hezbe Wahdat, with heavy artillery in the eastern suburbs, witnesses said.

Even Pakistani officials seemed fatalistic about the prospects for another round of bloodshed.

"All you can do is bring them together. You can't go to their country and stand over them," said Javed Akhtar, a spokesman for the prime minister's office.

Pakistan's foreign secretary, Mohammad Shaharyar Khan, said: "There are no safeguards. If after signing the agreement they decide to go back and start fighting again, there is nothing we can do."

U.N. officials pessimistic about Bosnia evacuation

TUZLA, Bosnia-Herzegovina (AP) — U.N. relief officials said Sunday that an evacuation of wounded and dying Muslim refugees from eastern Bosnia could be weeks away despite a mission to the area by the U.N. commander in Bosnia.

Heavy shelling was reported on Srebrenica, the Muslim-held town where some 5,000 refugees from the Cerska enclave, which was overrun by Serbs last week, have sought shelter.

General Philippe Morillon, the commander of U.N. troops in Bosnia, said after returning to Sarajevo from eastern Bosnia that the situation in the town was desperate and it would become a focus of relief efforts.

Hours later, U.S. Air Force cargo planes delivered 37.2 tonnes of food and 900 kilograms of medical supplies in the vicinity of Srebrenica, according to officials at the Rhein-Main air base in Germany where the flights originate. It was the seventh straight day of the U.S. aid drop.

On Saturday, U.N. teams located thousands of wounded Muslims trapped in battle-torn pockets of eastern Bosnia, and a doctor treating one group said dozens were dying daily of sickness and hunger.

Officials of the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) said 2,200 wounded and sick Muslims had been found in or near Cerska and more than 11,000 people, mostly now in Srebrenica, southeast of Tuzla, had requested evacuation.

Zumi Nakamitsu, a UNHCR spokeswoman in Tuzla, said Simon Martell, a World Health Organisation doctor in Srebrenica, reported that 20 to 30 of the wounded were dying daily.

Sarajevo Radio said Srebrenica came under heavy mortar and artillery attack from Serb forces Sunday. The report said more than 100 shells landed in the area, and at least one person was killed.

The wounded and others seeking evacuation were located after Gen. Morillon set out for the Cerska region Friday on a mission to secure Serb agreement on safe passage. But he appeared to have failed in his goal.

Gen. Morillon said Serb commanders had linked any evacuation to permission for Serb officials to come to Tuzla and other Muslim areas to see how Serbs there are faring and assure that they are allowed to leave as well.

All the Serbs remaining in Tuzla, however, are believed to be supporters of the Muslim-led Bosnian government.

Expressing UNHCR dismay with Gen. Morillon's mission, Mr. Levinso said the French general "has slowed us down, but he can't stop us."

Asked about prospects for a breakthrough, Mr. Levinso said, "Personally I'm not very optimistic. It could be two weeks." He said negotiators "have had no success in negotiations with the local (Serb) commanders ... they're awaiting orders from the top."

Mr. Morillon had said he was expecting to meet with the top Bosnian and Serb commanders on Monday.

But Barry Frewer, a U.N. spokesman in Sarajevo, said Serb Gen. Ratko Mladic and Gen. Sefir Halilovic, commander of Bosnian forces, have not given final commitments to attend.

At U.N. headquarters in New York, mediators said they planned to resume discussions on a solution to the Bosnian war later in the week after recessing Saturday.



Afghan leaders (sitting), along with representatives of several countries, pray after the signing ceremony Sunday of an Afghan agreement in Islamabad (AFP photo)

Bomb suspect's father says son totally innocent

By Ayman Al Safadi
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

ZARQA — The father of a Jordanian who was arraigned to the U.S. Thursday for allegedly abetting the Feb. 26 bombing of the World Trade Centre in New York has strongly asserted that his son was incapable of committing such an act.

"We were shocked to hear the news of his arrest. We could not believe it," Amin Salameh, father of Mohammad Salameh, told the Jordan Times Sunday in his first public comment about the incident.

Mohammad Salameh, 26, is held without bail in charges of abetting the bombing, which killed five people and wounded more than 1,000. He was arrested after investigations revealed that a van used in the bombing was rented by him.

The suspect left Jordan for the United States in February 1988 after receiving his bachelor's degree in Islamic Law from the University of Jordan. He entered the U.S. on a five-year single-entry visit visa.

Though he was described by relatives contacted by the Jordan Times as a religious person, both his father and a former colleague said Mr. Salameh was a "moderate, humorous and sociable person."

He was not a fundamentalist, a student at the Faculty of Sharia, who studied with Mr. Salameh said.

Amin Salameh said his son was not a member of any political organisation and a government spokesman said Saturday he had no criminal record in Jordan.

"He even condemned such organisations," Amin Salameh said in his moderate house in the middle-class industrial city of Zarqa.

Mohammad was born in Bedi village near Nablus in the West Bank and grew up in a poor neighbourhood at the outskirts of Zarqa, about 20 kilometres southeast of Amman. He has four brothers and five sisters, who, except for one married sister, are still students.

A composed but obviously worried Amin Salameh said he had no doubts about the innocence of his son who, he said, went to the United States to pursue his education and find a job.

"My son is 100 per cent innocent," he said.

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Jordanians condemn New York blast, sceptical over 'Islamic link'

By Sana Attiyeh
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Jordanians Sunday condemned the bomb attack on a New York skyscraper last week in which a Jordanian, Mohammad Salameh, is implicated, but many suspected the blast and the subsequent arrest of Salameh were part of a "Mossad plot" to discredit Arabs and Muslims.

While not all those interviewed by the Jordan Times necessarily viewed the bombing and consequent accusations against an Arab Muslim as an act planned by Zionists, all agreed that the entire affair served the interests of only one party: Israel.

Political leaders, analysts and common persons all condemned the Feb. 26 bombing of the skyscraper, the World Trade Centre, as "unjustified terrorism," and insisted that the timing of the act and the arrests of people suspected of being connected to Islamic groups drew suspicions that such an operation would actually be carried out by a Palestinian Muslim "fundamentalist," if, in fact, he is one.

Analysts were cautious since details of the case remained a mystery. But they said they could not but notice that the bombing came only two months after Israel expelled more than 400 Palestinians it charged with being Muslim "fundamentalists" who incite terrorist activities, and which created a crisis in the 16-month-old Middle East peace talks.

Israel had launched an intense campaign in the West trying to justify its expulsion of the Palestinians by insisting that Hamas, the Islamic Resistance Movement to which the Jewish state said the expellees belonged, was a terrorist organisation — a campaign which appears to have succeeded with some, such as the U.S. and France.

Insinuations in Washington and New York that Hamas could have been involved with the bombing of the building was rejected by Hamas leaders in Amman, who insist that the Islamic group focussed its operations only inside Palestine and against Israeli occupation forces. Hamas had claimed responsibility to the killing of six Israeli soldiers.

Mohammad Nazzari, the Hamas representative in Amman, told the Jordan Times he did not doubt the involvement of the Israeli intelligence, the Mossad, in the bombing of the New York tower.

"We don't doubt that Mossad is behind this operation to implicate the Islamic movements as terrorists," Mr. Nazzari said.

With what Arab analysts see as a Western campaign against Muslim "fundamentalism" in the Arab World, they said that blowing up of the skyscraper at this time by an Arab Muslim would be "exceptionally stupid." They thus doubt suspicions against Mr. Salameh working for an Islamic group have any real ground.

"Even the media here finds it suspicious that an Islamic group had bombed the tower," a Jordanian living in California told the Jordan Times in a telephone interview. "The media is showing the possibility that it could have been a set up against Arab Muslims."

Israel ends siege of Gaza today

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (R) — Israel will reopen the occupied Gaza Strip early Monday, almost a week after it was sealed off following the fatal stabbing by a Gazan of two Israelis in Tel Aviv.

"The closure on Gaza will be lifted on Monday at 3 a.m. (0100 GMT)," an Israeli army spokesman said.

In Gaza City Sunday, troops shot and wounded a Palestinian in the leg when the car he was riding in did not stop at a road-block.

Earlier, the army lifted a curfew from the Gaza Strip town of Rafah. It imposed the curfew last Tuesday when Palestinians stabbed and stoned to death an Israeli who mistakenly drove into a refugee camp in the town.

Monday's Tel Aviv stabbing triggered the sealing off of the strip.

The move barred the 850,000 Palestinians living in the strip from entering Israel. About 30,000 Palestinian labourers from there work in the Jewish state.

Military officials and Palestinian sources said troops captured Hamato Al Satary, Gaza Strip commander of the Red Eagles, a militant group affiliated with the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine, on Sunday.

Military officials said Satary was captured on Bureij refugee camp carrying a gun. Palestinian sources said Satary had been wanted by Israel for two years.

Arab-Israeli bloodshed has surged since Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin expelled to Lebanon 415 alleged militants in December.

The foreign and defence ministers said they were still checking UNRWA's involvement.

Israeli authorities have long been to odds with UNRWA, contending some of its institutions are centres of pro-Palestinian activism.

In 1988, an UNRWA official tried unsuccessfully to prevent a crowd from killing an Israeli reservist who mistakenly drove into another Gaza Strip refugee camp.

Salah, 39, and Mohammad Jarad, 36. They were arrested Jan. 25 and have been ordered held by military judges while accusations against them are investigated.

Israeli officials maintain the two also came to Israel to help rebuild Hamas following the expulsions.

When the initial arrests occurred, Israel was facing international condemnation over its mass expulsion of the Palestinians. At the time, some Israeli officials and media reports said Hamas was being run from the United States, an allegation denied by U.S. officials.

On Sunday, Israeli Environment Minister Yossi Sarid sought to justify the expulsions through the bombing at the World Trade Centre in New York, saying the bombing would bring more understanding of Israel's actions by Americans.

"Perhaps they can better understand that this government, which explicitly wants peace, sometimes finds itself under circumstances where it has to deport even 400 people," Mr. Sarid told Israeli Radio.

Apparently referring to Hamas, Mr. Sarid said Israel was dealing with "an organisation that is out of the ordinary and that therefore the actions against it must also be out of the ordinary."

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American blamed for death of three Somalis in Mogadishu

By Paul Alexander
The Associated Press

MOGADISHU, Somalia — Residents of the Hammer Jadidi district had just finished a day of fasting when the first shots rang out. Witnesses said the ensuing firefight, involving American troops, left three people dead and two wounded.

The soldiers were accused of shooting indiscriminately in the Friday night incident and fleeing without helping the injured, including a 12-year-old boy who was hit twice in the back.

"They came to our country and said they would save us. Now they are killing us," said Abdi Hassan, a witness who took an Associated Press reporter and photographer to see the blood-stained sidewalk and peck-marked buildings.

But U.S. officials defended the patrol, saying one of their two vehicles was hit several times.

"The patrol took fire. The patrol returned fire. The patrol got the hell out of there," said Air Force Captain Joe Davis, a U.S. military spokesman. "If any Somalis got killed, they're the ones who shot first."

All shootings involving U.S.

troops are routinely investigated. In another incident, a hearing is being held to determine whether a Marine should be court-martialed for shooting and wounding two teenagers after one tried to steal his sunglasses.

The shooting in the Hammer Jadidi neighbourhood was the most serious in two days of sporadic violence.

Military authorities in Paris said two French soldiers were killed in a road accident Saturday between Mogadishu and Baidoa. They were the first French troops to die in the Somalia intervention.

On Saturday night, a U.S. Marine died of what military officials said was an "apparent self-inflicted gunshot wound," becoming the seventh American to lose his life in Operation Restore Hope.

The Marine's name was withheld pending notification of relatives, said Marine Colonel Fred Peck.

In a brief statement, Col. Peck said the Marine apparently shot himself at Mogadishu soccer stadium as the Marines use as a base. Col. Peck said the shooting did not appear to be accidental and would be investigated.

In violence Friday, U.S. troops killed two other Somalis in separate incidents, and two children were injured — one seriously when a hand grenade they were playing with exploded.

The Hammer Jadidi residents said people were outside Friday evening when looters entered a nearby market and fired shots. They said the Marines, on patrol nearby, opened fire.

It was unclear who shot whom. But when the gunfire was over, five casualties were taken to Benadir Hospital. A nurse, speaking on condition of anonymity, said three were dead on arrival. Residents said others may have died.

"Everybody was screaming," Hassan said. "I tried to escape. I laid down."

Abuker Abdullah Weyliye, 22, lay dazed in a bare bunk at the hospital, a huge bandage covering the left side of his face. A bullet hit beside his left eye and exited behind his ear.

"While we were playing cards, we heard the bullets," said Hassan Ahmad Haji, a friend of Mr. Weyliye who was at the bedside. "The army had not yet reached us. He tried to escape, but when he stood up, he was shot."

A 12-year-old boy, Abdi Ali



A man guides his donkey-drawn wagon by a roadblock manned by Nigerian forces in Mogadishu (AFP photo)

Hassan, was injured when he was hit twice in the back by bullets or fragments. His father said the youth had been home, walking to his room, when he was hit.

"He fell down and cried," the father said. "I rented a car to take him to the hospital."

The official U.S. report of the incident read: "Last night at 2010 (hours), a two-vehicle patrol was

moving east to west one kilometre south of the stadium when they received six bursts of automatic fire from alleys and rooftops in the area.

The convoy returned fire and broke contact. There were no U.S. casualties, although several rounds struck the vehicle. The motivation for the attack is unknown.

The neighbourhood residents

said that while they were upset over the deaths and injuries, they were even more angry that no one came to talk with them Saturday. They threw stones at several convoys.

The U.S.-led coalition of military forces arrived in Somalia on Dec. 9 to try to restore order in the chaotic country and protect relief aid for the country's starving.

Sudanese held as suspect in Cairo cafe bombing

CAIRO (AP) — Police arrested a Sudanese man trying to leave Egypt and held him on suspicion of involvement in a bomb attack at a crowded coffee shop that killed three people, the government news agency reported Sunday.

Major General Hussein Tewfik, security chief of Aswan, told the Middle East News Agency (MENA) that Khaled Haroun Mansour was intercepted as he left the southern resort for Sudan.

Ferries ply routes on Lake Nasser, the world's largest man-made lake, from Aswan, 980 kilometres south of Cairo, to Wadi Halfa just inside Sudan.

Mr. Mansour is a suspect in the Feb. 26 bombing of the Wadi Al Nil coffee shop in central Cairo, in which a Swede, a Turk and one Egyptian died.

A bomb packed with nails exploded amid the coffee shop's Egyptian and foreign clientele. In addition to the three dead, 16 were wounded including two Americans, a Frenchman and a Canadian.

The next day, Muslim extremists claimed responsibility and vowed to "continue the vendetta with the government."

The government has accused Sudan of exporting Muslim extremists to Egypt. At least one Sudanese was indicted in another case involving religious extremists, but he is at large.

The brief MENA report said nothing about evidence the government holds against the Sudanese suspect.

The coffee shop was one of a chain owned by an Egyptian-Sudanese family from Aswan. The arrest of a Sudanese raises speculation the explosion could have involved a personal vendetta, which are common in southern Egypt.

Muslim extremists Saturday killed two policemen and wounded a third in separate clashes in southern Egypt, a police official said.

In Aswan, gunmen killed a policeman guarding a church and seriously wounded another before seizing the security men's weapons and fleeing, a police officer said.

In Assiut, a stronghold of Muslim extremists, another policeman was killed in a shootout with suspected extremists.

Another police force killed a suspected extremist Friday while searching Safadiah, a village in Assiut province.

Israel insists U.N. worker failed to help tax collector

TEL AVIV (AP) — A cabinet member Sunday threatened that Israel would lodge a complaint over allegations that a U.N. worker failed to intervene when he witnessed the slaying of an Israeli in the occupied Gaza Strip.

But Israeli military and foreign ministry officials said they have not completed an investigation of the accusations concerning the March 2 stoning and shooting death of Israeli debt collector Yehoshua Weisbrod.

A spokesman for the U.N. Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA), which handles aid to Palestinian refugees, has denied the agency's employees ignored the attack on Weisbrod.

The controversy flared after Gaza military commander Brigadier General Yoni Tov Samya accused officials of the UNRWA Saturday of ignoring the attack that occurred in a refugee camp in Rafah on the southern edge of Gaza.

Weisbrod, 44, a debt collector for a gas company, had taken a wrong turn into the camp while headed elsewhere in Gaza. It was a day of high tensions because Gazans were barred from reaching jobs in Israel after the fatal stabbings of two Israelis in Tel Aviv by a Gazan a day earlier.

Gen. Samya told Israel Radio

that U.N. relief workers, including Katharine Striker, a refugee affairs officer, saw a crowd attack Weisbrod and left the scene without trying to intervene or alert soldiers at a nearby outpost.

UNRWA spokesman Rolf van Uye confirmed the agency employee was at the scene. But he said that when he spotted the assault on an Israeli vehicle and a motionless body inside, she "repeatedly tried to get close but was prevented from doing so by the crowd."

She then tried to contact U.N. headquarters in Gaza and also went to the nearest U.N. building to report the incident, Van Uye said on the radio Sunday.

He said she then headed back to the scene, arriving as Israeli soldiers did.

The issue came up at the weekly Israeli cabinet meeting. Several Israeli officials complained the woman failed to contact the army directly so they could have tried to rescue Weisbrod, media reports said.

Housing Minister Benjamin Ben Eliezer, a former military adviser on the occupied territories, said on the radio after the meeting that he thought the U.N. agency acted improperly.

The foreign ministry, Ben

Israelis searched for Scuds in Iraq during war — report

LONDON (AP) — Israeli intelligence agents operated in western Iraq during the Gulf war, trying to spot Scud missiles aimed at Israel, the Sunday Times reported.

The newspaper's front-page story also said the five Israeli soldiers killed by a stray missile during a training exercise in November were rehearsing to assassinate Iraqi leader Saddam Hussein.

Previous reports have said the soldiers were training to attack the Muslim fundamentalist group, Hizbollah, in South Lebanon. Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Chairman Yasser Arafat claimed they were trying to kill him.

Soldiers involved in both the assassination plot and the hunt for Scud missiles belonged to Sayaret Matkal, a branch of military intelligence specialising in reconnaissance missions behind enemy lines, the Sunday Times said. The report was based on unnamed sources.

The newspaper gave no other details of the previously unknown Israeli search for Soviet-supplied Scud missiles inside Iraq during the war. Iraq is believed to still have about 200 missiles of the type that were used against Israel and Saudi Arabia.

It said Israel had intelligence from inside Iraq that made mili-

tary commanders "100 per cent sure" they would be able to hit President Saddam.

"That accident saved Saddam's life," quoting an unnamed source.

Five soldiers died during the training exercise at the remote Tze'elim army base in the desert on Nov. 5 after being struck by a stray missile.

The Sunday Times said it was a newly-developed, body-beat seeking missile that would have been fired at President Saddam. It said the soldiers were killed during the final rehearsal for the operation.

The accident led to the assassination attempt being cancelled, the newspaper said. The plot was based on a single, specific opportunity to kill President Saddam and could not be completed without the dead soldiers, it said.

Several foreign newspapers reported in late November that the Nov. 5 accident was a rehearsal for a military mission. The Miami Herald quoted sources as saying the aim of the mission would have been to assassinate Sheikh Hassan Nasrallah, leader of the Lebanese Shiite Muslim movement Hizbollah.

The incident caused a controversy because Israeli newspapers were censored from publishing the names of high-ranking officers who were present when the accident occurred.

Iran denies terrorism charge

NICOSIA (AP) — Iran's foreign ministry condemned acts of terrorism Sunday and denied U.S. State Department claims that Tehran sponsored such deeds, the official Islamic Republic News Agency (IRNA) reported.

The agency, monitored in Nicosia, said the ministry issued a statement after an "escalation of anti-Iran propaganda" following the bombing of the World Trade Centre in New York.

On Friday, a week after the bombing, the State Department called Iran "the world's leading state supporter of terrorism and principal backer of extremist Islamic and Palestinian groups."

Tehran Radio said Saturday that the comment indicated the groundwork was being laid for planning Iraq for the bombing. The prime suspect has been described as a Muslim fundamentalist.

The foreign ministry said: "Such allegations against Iran are brought up while the U.S. administration, with its unsparring support for the Zionist regime... shoulders the responsibility for the massacre, suppression, displacement and homelessness of the oppressed Palestinian and Lebanese nations."

It also accused the United States of supporting oppressive governments and harbouring groups such as the Mujahideen-Khalq, an Iranian dissident group involved in attacks on Iranian officials after falling out with



Hashemi Rafsanjani

the Islamic revolutionary government.

"The U.S. administration, as a supporter of such suppressive regimes and terrorist organisations, cannot cover up its past functions and its present instigations by levelling charges against Iran, which has always been a victim of terrorist acts itself," the statement said.

It said the "sabotage and interventionist activities" of intelligence agencies were well known and that accusations against Iran from Western nations stemmed from those countries "being influenced by Zionist circles."

Egypt says hardline sheikh faces charges if he returns

CAIRO (AP) — Egypt's foreign minister said Sunday that if the United States deports fundamentalist preacher Omar Abdul Rahman to Egypt, he would face criminal charges at home.

Amr Musa's comment, in an interview with the Associated Press, was the first Egyptian confirmation that the government is prepared to level additional charges against Sheikh Abdul Rahman. Egyptian courts acquitted the blind cleric three times of terrorism-related crimes before he left his native land to eventually settle in New Jersey.

Mohammad A. Salameh, said to be a member of Sheikh Abdul Rahman's Islamic fundamentalist congregation in Jersey City, has been charged in the Feb. 26 bombing of the World Trade Centre in New York.

Sheikh Abdul Rahman condemned that bombing. But he preaches violence against anyone who stands in the way of fundamentalist Islam.

Violence initiated by Islamic radicals has resulted in 95 deaths in the past 15 months, including three Western tourists killed by extremists. The government claims that their spiritual guidance and some of their money come from Sheikh Abdul Rahman.

The U.S. government is pressing a deportation case against

Sheikh Abdul Rahman, 54, on grounds he concealed on his visa application an Egyptian conviction for falsifying a cheque.

The Egyptian foreign minister, whose country is a close friend of the United States, said Cairo would have to accept Sheikh Abdul Rahman if no other country wants him. If that happens, Mr. Musa said: "There has to be" charges filed against him here.

"Bad cheques and things like that, personal things, I don't know about," Mr. Musa said.

"But this instigating violence and promoting the use of force and use of violent means against the government, against society, all those things will be considered."

The foreign minister said other officials would have to determine precise charges against Sheikh Abdul Rahman, and that Egypt had not decided whether to try to extradite him.

"The suspicion is there, that there is some kind of coordination" by Islamic militants to "launch a new 'international campaign of terror,'" he said. He could not elaborate "because it is only a suspicion."

But Mr. Musa, a Muslim who is observing the annual Ramadan fast, added: "We resent here the notion in certain European and American newspapers that terrorism is (intrinsically) linked to Islam, which is definitely defaming one of the major religions."

Violence renews Israeli question: What to do with Gaza?

TEL AVIV (AP) — The debate over Israel's occupation of the crowded, impoverished Gaza Strip has reemerged after three Israelis were killed by Gazans last week.

A third of Israelis advocate immediate, unilateral withdrawal, a poll taken last week by the daily Maariv showed. Another 34 per cent support withdrawal as part of an overall peace settlement.

Just 23 per cent say Israel should remain in Gaza for now, according to the poll of 850 people aged 18 or older. No margin of error was released.

"There is nothing there for us," Health Minister Haim Ramon said following the killings. "We are allowing the

Palestinians to force us to stay there." He advocated a pullout within two years.

Workers from Gaza were blocked from entering Israel for a week after a 19-year-old Palestinian from the strip killed two Israelis and wounded nine in a stabbing spree Monday in Tel Aviv. On Tuesday, Yehoshua Weisbrod was lynched when he made a wrong turn into the Rafah refugee camp in the strip.

The army clamped a curfew on the camp on Wednesday and Israel radio said some 100 Palestinians were detained for questioning.

While violence has also increased in the occupied West Bank which was seized with Gaza in the 1967 Middle East war — the question of what

to do with Gaza dominated news reports throughout the week.

The narrow strip along the Mediterranean Sea is home to about 800,000 Palestinians. They depend on jobs in Israel because the local economy is moribund.

In a Wednesday editorial, the daily Yedioth Ahronoth questioned when Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin would address his campaign pledge "to get Gaza off the streets of Tel Aviv."

The widow of Nathan Azariya, one of the victims in the Tel Aviv attack, called on authorities to seal off the strip. But others said cutting off Gaza would only increase violence aimed at Israel.

Housing Minister Benjamin Ben Eliezer said it

would be easier for Israel to withdraw from the West Bank, where Palestinians could cross into Jordan for work. In Gaza, he asked, "where is their outlet — the sea?"

But former Foreign Minister David Levy of the opposition Likud Party said a pullout would allow extremists to use Gaza to launch attacks against Israel.

David Ranen, a former senior official in Israel's general security service, agreed, pointing out that effectively abandoning Gaza's refugee camps in the late 1960s backfired when attacks on Israelis increased.

But the brother of a man lynched in Gaza in 1990 said pulling out of Gaza was the

only solution he could see preventing such incidents in the future.

"I dream of standing next to the mosque where he was killed and opening up with a sub-machinegun," said Giora Pomerantz, whose brother, Amnon, was beaten and burned to death in Al Bureij refugee camp.

"But we must make peace with the Arabs, give them their land and we will keep ours," Mr. Pomerantz told Israel TV Friday.

Mr. Rabin, while not addressing calls for withdrawal, has said he does not support a blanket, indefinite closure of Gaza. He has also resisted calls for Israel to drop out of Arab-Israeli peace talks until violence is halted.

"It is preferable that the Gaza Strip and the West Bank constitute a single unit... a long-term solution in Gaza promotes a long-term arrangement in the West Bank," wrote Yossi Belkin, the deputy foreign minister, in a commentary in Maariv.

Ariel Manor, cabinet secretary in the right-wing government of the late Prime Minister Menachem Begin, said Israel had tried everything but peace to stop Palestinian attacks on its citizens.

"We have not tried to see how the Palestinians would act under peace conditions when they will have something to lose if they violate it," Mr. Manor wrote in Wednesday's Yedioth Ahronoth.

1 wounded in Beirut shootout

BEIRUT (AP) — One civilian has been wounded in Beirut in a shootout between rival Shi'ite Muslim militiamen of the pro-Iranian Hizbollah and the Syrian-backed Amal, an Amal spokesman said Sunday.

The spokesman, who refused to be identified, said the violence was triggered by an exchange of insults between a Hizbollah activist and a member of Amal Saturday evening in south Beirut's Tayyounah area.

He said a group of Hizbollahs later opened up briefly with machine-gun fire at the offices of Amal in the nearby Shiyay neighbourhood, wounding a civilian.

The spokesman said the army deployed troops in the rain-drenched area to restore order. Telephone calls to Hizbollah's press office for comment went unanswered.

The two groups engaged from 1987-1990 in an on-again off-

again power struggle for the control of Lebanon's 1.2 million Shi'ites, who make up the country's largest single sect.

Hizbollah is the standard bearer of Iran's brand of Shi'ite Muslim fundamentalism while Amal is more secular.

Although the government has disarmed most militias that fought in Lebanon's 1975-1990 civil war, various militias still retain some of their light arms.

The army command, seeking to dispel worries about its ability to maintain law and order, said in a statement Sunday the hostilities occurred during a brief vacuum resulting from a rotation of troops.

The communique said the army was hunting down 10 irregulars from the two factions who took part in the shootout and stressed it will not "hesitate to quell harshly any disorders."

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

JORDAN TELEVISION

Tel: 77311-19

PROGRAMME TWO

18:00 Engrains
18:05 News in French
18:15 Magazine Sportif
19:30 News in Hebrew
20:00 News in Arabic
20:30 Step by Step
21:10 Martin Bay
22:00 News in English
22:30 Jordan Weekly
22:40 Vietnam

PRAYER TIMES

06:35 Fajr
05:52 (Sunrise) Dhuha
11:47 Dhuhr
15:47 Asr
17:42 Maghrib
18:53 Isha

CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church Swatish, Tel. 510740
Assumption of God Church, Tel. 532785
St. Joseph Church Tel. 624590
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 637440
De la Salle Church Tel. 661757

Terrace Church Tel: 622366
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 63541
Anglican Church Tel. 652826, Tel. 628543

Armenian Catholic Church Tel. 773331

Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 773261

St. Ephraim Church Tel. 771751

Assumption International Church Tel. 665326

Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel. 624328

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints Tel. 823824, 634932

Church of the Nazarene Tel. 675691

WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.

Jordan will remain under the effect of the cold fronts accompanying a depression centred over Turkey. Therefore, it will continue to be partly cloudy to cloudy with scattered showers of rain. Wind will be southerly fresh and winds will be southerly fresh and sea rough.

Min./Max. temp. 4/11

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

NIGHT DUTY

AMMAN:

Dr. Ghaleb Zawiadeh 736011

Dr. Mohammad Al Azzeh 725971

Dr. Yousef Zida 694916

Dr. Yousef Samouni 615648

Firas pharmacy 661912

Fordons pharmacy 778336

Al Azzeh pharmacy 637033

Natashah pharmacy 623672

Al Salem pharmacy 636730

Youssef pharmacy 644945

Shamsat pharmacy 637681

Malouf pharmacy 623672

Najla pharmacy 847632

AMMAN:

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Natashah pharmacy 623672

Al Salem pharmacy 636730

Youssef pharmacy 644945

Shamsat pharmacy 637681

Malouf pharmacy 623672

Najla pharmacy 847632

ALQAHA PHARMACY

(-) 637111

Civil Defence Department 661111

Race 630341

Civil Defence Emergency 199

Road Police 192, 621111, 637777

Fire Brigade 391228

Blood Bank 775121

NHF unveils major development project, marking International Women's day

AMMAN (J.T.) — As Jordan marks International Women's Day Monday, Noor Al Hussein Foundation (NHF) unveiled an ambitious project for the advancement of women's status in the Kingdom, in cooperation with concerned national and international organisations.

The project, entitled "Building National Capacity in Women in Development," seeks to promote women's equal participation in the development process of Jordan, through the establishment of a Jordanian human and institutional capacity in gathering and disseminating gender-sensitive data relating to development.

The project also seeks to enhance the capacity of the different Jordanian agencies concerned with development and women in development, to establish, implement and monitor gender-sensitive policies and programmes.

The proposed project also includes training on gender-sensitive data collection and analysis, in addition to a communication component to raise public awareness of the importance of greater women's participation in the development process, and to create concrete practices on the issue.

It also emphasises networking (exchanges of information and expertise) among different women's development groups and organisations under the NHF umbrella.

A proposal has been submitted for funding one-fifth of the \$400,000 project by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), while NHF will seek to secure the remainder (\$320,000) through other donors and U.N. agencies.

NHF women emphasises the centrality of integrating women, especially rural and underprivileged women, into the socio-economic development process to enhance their total quality of life within their families and communities.

The foundation does that through socio-economic schemes aimed at empowering women to become active participants in their own development, informed decision makers in their homes and communities, and trained income-earners in their societies.

Her Majesty Queen Noor, Chairperson of the NHF board of trustees, has taken the lead in promoting such a strategy through the foundation's projects and programmes and through national groups interested in women's affairs.

In Feb. 1992, Queen Noor took part in the Geneva Summit on the Advancement of Rural Women sponsored by the International

Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD). A Geneva Declaration issued by the summit called on countries to initiate programmes conducive to women's participation in the development process, especially in rural areas.

The declaration has received support from the Organisation of African Unity (OAU), the Non-Aligned Summit and the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations (ECOSOC).

Jordan is a member of IFAD's International Steering Committee, a follow-up body representing different regions of the world and set up to monitor and evaluate the implementation of the Geneva Declaration.

NHF is an active member of the National Committee for Women, established under the chairmanship of Her Royal Highness Princess Basma, to increase women's participation in the labour force, to promote women's rights and political participation and to improve their social status.

This year, NHF will convene a specialised seminar on the Empowerment of Rural Women to develop a master plan for rural women's development, to be later presented to a national conference on women. These gatherings are in preparation for Jordan's participation in the 1995 U.N. Conference on Women.

The Noor Al Hussein Foundation, through its Quality of Life and Women in Development Projects, as well as through the Jordan Design and Trade Centre, works to promote fuller women's participation and representation in national development by enabling them to become informed decision makers, trained income earners and self-reliant.

This is realised through training in leadership, planning, management and implementation of income-generating schemes, family and civic affairs and literacy.

By 1992, about 15,000 individuals had directly and indirectly benefited from six schemes implemented by the Women in Development Project in bee-keeping and boney production, leather stitching, garment production, medicinal herbs, rabbit raising and production of dolls in traditional costumes.

During the same period, about 10,000 others had also benefited directly and indirectly from the Quality of Life Project, implemented in eight communities throughout Jordan. Another 740 women from the Jordan Design and Trade Centre had received training, technical and marketing assistance.

Queen addresses officials, travel industry in Berlin

AMMAN (J.T.) — Her Majesty Queen Noor, who arrived in Berlin Saturday to participate in the opening of Berlin's International Tourism Exchange, addressed an audience of 3,000 government representatives and travel professionals from around the world about tourism in the Middle East.

"For Jordan and the Middle East, tourism and travel are increasingly important economic activities, but they are much more than that — hospitality to friends and strangers alike is deeply ingrained in our Arab Islamic culture and traditions," the Queen said.

Speaking about her projects in Jordan with village communities whose work contributes to the promotion of tourism, the Queen said the people of these communities "appreciate the income they earn from tourism." But, she added, "they place equal or greater value on the nonmaterial aspects of tourism-enlightening

exchanges with people of other countries and their pride in belonging to an ancient culture and a modern country that attracts visitors from the four corners of the earth."

Queen Noor concluded her speech by exhorting the audience "to make the business of travel and tourism a bedrock of international understanding, tolerance and peace."

She added, "I urge you to continue to capture the millions of small, magical moments when people from different cultures meet, share a handshake and a smile and transform them into something more lasting."

On Sunday the Queen visited the East German city of Potsdam, where she toured Sans Souci Palace, an 18th century palace built for Prussian monarch King Frederick II. She then visited Cecilienhof Palace, the site of the signing of the 1945 Potsdam

agreement dividing Germany into four zones. Her Majesty was accompanied by the president of the Senate of the state of Brandenburg, as well as by Jordanian officials.

In the evening the Queen addressed the Society for Foreign Politics, where she spoke about recent socio-political developments in Jordan.

"In Jordan, we responded to our challenging regional circumstances by focusing intensely on human development as the long-term antidote to our prevailing pressures," the Queen said.

By the late 1980s, she added, "we recognised that we could only overcome our modern legacy of regional conflicts and economic disparities by promoting political values and systems that could transform our successful national development into a more stable and equitable regional order."

NES parents continue drive against higher fees

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — A meeting of parents and the administration of the New English School (NES) has produced an interim agreement to freeze until March 20 an increase in tuition fees and transportation charges the school is demanding with effect from the 1993-94 scholastic term.

At the same time, faced with the prospect of being cornered into paying higher fees if their children were to continue school, parents are also trying to reach a speedier solution to their dispute with the school management over the 35 to 50 per cent hike.

A representative committee of parents met with the school administration Saturday. But no settlement could be reached since the chairman of the board of directors of the school, Sa'id Al Turk, who is the effective owner, remains on vacation abroad.

"It was decided at the meeting that the school will freeze (the increases) until March 20, when Mr. Turk will be back in Jordan and we can discuss the issue with him," said Ziad Murad, a member of the committee.

In the meantime, he said, the committee was drafting a memorandum to the Prime Minister, the Minister of Education and the two Houses of Parliament.

Mr. Murad did not say what specific action the committee was seeking from the executive and legislative authorities.

Several parents said, meanwhile, that if a meeting with Mr. Turk does not produce a compromise solution, then the pa-

rents would face a dilemma: They would find it difficult to move their children to other institutions since most schools would have completed their registration and admission for new students by the third-fourth week of March.

"It is a 'catch-22' situation," said one of the parents. "If we insist on our position, the school could tell us to remove our children if we don't like to pay the higher fees. And by then it will be too late for us to look for other schools."

"If we want to keep our children at NES, then we have to pay the registration fees now, which implies that we accept the fees with the increases" of up to 50 per cent for some grades, she said.

"The unity of parents is the most significant element now," explained the parent, who said she had three of her children at the NES.

"In general there seems to be enough solidarity among the parents to ensure that none of them break ranks and pay registration fees to NES as long as the dispute remains unsettled."

During Tuesday's meeting, however, the school administration promised to ensure that the option of parents to retain their students at NES would remain open until the end of the month, parents said.

In return, parents were asked to pay the regular third quarter fees for the 1992-93 term due this month.

Observers said that the pitfall in official intervention in the dispute is that it opens the door for

the government to interfere in the financial aspects of private schools — an area so far left untouched by the executive authority.

If a formal request is submitted by parents, then the government will take "a closer look" at the situation, said a senior official, implying that the government action "may not exactly please the administration."

Present legislation does not allow for government intervention in the financial affairs of private schools, but student protest actions — such as a two-hour strike staged by NES secondary level students three weeks ago — would bring in the executive authority.

At the same time, many parents believe that the government could apply subtle pressure on the NES to reach an amicable solution to the dispute.

"There are dozens of avenues that the government can use to convince the school of accepting a just solution to the problem," said another parent.

The NES stand-off has drawn high-level interest and concern from other private schools which fear the issue could have an adverse impact on their administrative and financial freedom.

"We hope the NES administration ends the dispute without much fanfare and publicity," said a senior official at another leading private school in Jordan.

If the NES dispute remains unsettled and invites official intervention, said the official, "it will be a bad precedent for all private schools in the country."

Officials discuss marketing local products in Germany

By P.V. Vivekanand Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — A German delegation now visiting Jordan is trying to identify Jordanian products that could be marketed in Germany in line with the Kingdom's quest to increase its exports and barter trade, a senior German diplomat said Sunday.

The delegation, headed by the former German ambassador to Jordan, Herwig Bartels, who is now head of the Middle East desk at the German Foreign Ministry, held talks on Sunday with Foreign Minister Kamel Abu Jaber, Minister of Planning Ziad Fariz and Minister of Trade and Industry Abdullah Ensour.

The main objective of the delegation's visit is to identify areas of economic cooperation with particular focus on Jordanian exports to Germany," said Matthias Meyer, charge d'affaires at the German embassy here.

The delegation's talks with Dr. Abu Jaber focused on the Middle East peace process as well as German-Jordanian economic relations and cooperation, the Jordan News Agency, Petra, said.

"The two sides exchanged views on regional and international issues of mutual concern," Petra said.

The agency quoted Dr. Bartels as describing Jordanian-German cooperation as excellent and predicting that bilateral relations would continue to be strengthened in view of Jordan's important role in the region and the Middle East peace process.

Dr. Bartels also pledged his country's continued support for Jordan.

Jordan wants to increase its traditional exports — such as fertilisers, phosphates etc. — and this was a point raised during the recent visit to Germany by His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan and Mr. Fariz. Mr. Meyer told the Jordan Times.

The delegation's talks here came as a follow-up to the discussions the Crown Prince had with German leaders. Mr. Meyer said, noting that a delegation representing the Jordan Trade Association (JTA) will be visiting Germany soon for the same purposes.

The balance of trade is heavily in favour of Germany, whose exports to Jordan — mostly vehicles, industrial equipment and some luxury products — totalled JD 33 million in 1991, while the Kingdom's exports to Germany — agricultural produce, fertilisers, leather goods, etc. — were worth JD 1.5 million.

In 1992, the figures might have gone by a "little bit," Mr. Meyer said.

Dr. Bartels, whose tenure as ambassador to Jordan ended two years ago, also held two hours of separate political discussions with Crown Prince Hassan on Saturday.

According to Mr. Meyer, the talks included a "general review of the Middle East peace process and how Germany could help the ongoing efforts" to reactivate the Arab-Israeli peace talks.

Another subject tackled by the delegation was tourism, which was reviewed during a meeting with the acting Minister of Tourism, Abdul Karim Kabarti.

"The delegation explored possibilities of how Germany could further help tourism in Jordan," Mr. Meyer said, recalling that his country had extended assistance to the Kingdom to improve tourism facilities in the past.

German economic assistance to Jordan was not part of the talks the delegation held here, Mr. Meyer said.

Germany, one of Jordan's major donor countries, gave the Kingdom an outright grant of 35 million deutschmarks (around JD 15 million) in 1992 and extended technical assistance worth 17 million deutschmarks (JD 7 million) in 1992.

Mr. Meyer said assistance for Jordan for the year 1993 was not decided yet, and that discussions were continuing. The assistance comes over and above Germany's regular contribution to the European Commission budget which has separate allocations for aid to Jordan.

Among the areas of the assistance are water supply networks and improvement of agriculture, Mr. Meyer said.

Germany was among the first countries to provide financial assistance — close to \$300 million — to Jordan to offset the losses the Kingdom suffered as a result of the Gulf crisis sparked by the August 1990 Iraqi invasion of Kuwait.

Strategic Studies Centre plans population meeting

AMMAN (Petra) — The Centre for Strategic Studies at the University of Jordan is preparing for a major conference on population transformations and trends and development policies scheduled for May.

The conference, to be held under the patronage of Her Majesty Queen Noor, will be attended by a select group of population specialists and United Nations experts, in addition to representatives of specialised institutions in foreign countries and Jordanian universities, according to a statement issued Sunday.

The statement said the conference will review a total of 17 working papers in six separate sessions to be held during the two days of deliberations.

The first session will deal with population and developing hu-

man resources, covering topics related to Jordan's needs for skilled labour to the year 2000, and the country's vocational training and higher education needs.

The second session will review working papers that discuss natural resources versus population growth and the effects of the increase in population on energy consumption and the ecology.

The changes in population trends and their effects on Jordanian society will be the focus of the third session. Here participants will review development strategies, people's migrations, the consequences of the Gulf crisis on Jordan in terms of population, social problems resulting from population growth and other relevant topics.

The fourth session will tackle

the question of population growth versus national security in Jordan. Papers on this topic will deal with the effects of population structure on foreign policy, state security and security challenges, as well as democratic trends.

Session five will focus attention on Jordanian's national population policies. Papers to be reviewed in this session are expected to provide criticism of the present trends, and also forecasts about population in Jordan. The papers will also deal with effects of birth spacing, fertility and related issues.

The sixth and final session will provide a forum for the participants to present their remarks on topics discussed at the earlier sessions.

Weather to ease up next week

AMMAN (J.T.) — The cold air mass which is centred over Turkey will continue to affect Jordan in the next two days, bringing scattered showers and causing lower than average temperatures, according to Jamal Al Mousa of the Department of Meteorology.

Mr. Al Mousa told the Jordan Times that the average tempera-

ture for this time of year is around 16° C, but due to the cold air mass, temperatures during the next two days will not rise above 11° C and will drop as low as 3° C at night.

He added that constant wind will accompany the showers. Mr. Al Mousa, in Aqaba, it will be partly cloudy and seas will be rough.

Effects of this mass, he explained, are expected to remain until Tuesday evening when a new cold air mass, resulting from a depression centred over Greece, will affect the eastern Mediterranean region, including Jordan. This will bring more rain, he said.

HOME NEWS IN BRIEF

King hosts Iftar for Parliament

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein Sunday hosted an Iftar banquet in honour of members of the Upper and Lower Houses of Parliament. The Iftar was attended by His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, His Royal Highness Prince Faisal Ben Al Hussein, Prime Minister Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker, Chief of the Royal Court Khalid Al Karaki, Chief Chamberlain Prince Ra'd Ben Zeid, and Private Chamberlain Prince Nayef Ben Ali.

King sends congratulations to Syrian president

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein Sunday sent a cable of good wishes to Syrian President Hafez Al Assad on his country's national day anniversary. In the cable the King wished the president continued health and the Syrian people further progress and prosperity.

House to discuss civil service criteria Sunday

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Lower House of Parliament reviewed a request by 17 deputies to discuss conditions and criteria of appointments in public service posts. The House set Sunday, Mar. 14 as the date for discussing these appointments.

Tamimi discusses pilgrimage with Turkish envoy

AMMAN (Petra) — Issues pertaining to Muslim pilgrims from Turkey were at the centre of discussion Sunday by Minister of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs Izzeddin Al Khatib Al Tamimi and Turkish Ambassador to Jordan Mehmet Iremelik. They also discussed Jordanian-Turkish cooperation in religious affairs. Turkey's pilgrims to the holy sites on Mecca and Medina normally pass through Jordan by land, and the Ministry of Awqaf hosts them at a pilgrims city near the northern town of Ramtha.

King condoles Qal'aji and Qar'an families

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein Sunday visited the home of the late Hassan Al Qal'aji to condole the Qal'aji and Qar'an families on the death of the wife of Abdul Karim Al Qar'an.

Crown Prince condoles Nawaleh family

AMMAN (Petra) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan Sunday delegated Karak Governor Radi Ibrahim to convey his condolences to Nawaleh family over the death of Theob Al Nawaleh.

Zarqa moves street vendors from streets

ZARQA (Petra) — Zarqa municipality has embarked on an all-out campaign to remove street vendors from the downtown business centre which is crowded with pedestrians. Zarqa Mayor Yasser Omari said municipality inspection teams are in the area 24 hours a day to prevent vendors from entering the business centre. The municipality has arranged for the vendors to sell their goods in another district near the bus terminal and away from congested streets, in order to facilitate traffic.

Jobs urged for journalism graduates

AMMAN (Petra) — President of the Civil Service Commission Abdullah Ulayan Sunday called on the government departments to appoint university graduates specialising in journalism and mass communication in appropriate posts. In a circular addressed to ministries and departments, Mr. Ulayan said, there is a need for supporting administrative units at such institutions with specialised communicators and information personnel to help implement administrative development. The circular urged the ministries and departments concerned to look into the possibility of absorbing journalists and communicators into suitable jobs, taking into consideration their own needs.

University students elect council today

AMMAN (Petra) — A total of 221 students from the University of Jordan will be competing for the 80-member student council, which will be elected Monday (today), according to Dean of Students Affairs Mohammad Khreisat. Mr. Khreisat, who is also the rapporteur of the elections committee, said 21,169 students will cast votes in Monday's elections.

PSD graduates 151 officers

ZARQA (Petra) — The Public Security Department (PSD) Sunday graduated 151 new police officers from the Police Training Academy in Zarqa and named the group the "Saladin" detachment. The new officers, who underwent a 22-week training theoretical and practical training in police work, received their diplomas and awards from the PSD Assistant Director Abdul Rahman Al Udwan. The graduates presented military and equestrian performances before the spectators attending the graduation ceremony.

WHAT'S GOING ON

The following listings are compiled from monthly bulletins and the daily Arabic press. Readers are advised to verify the listed time and place with the concerned institutions.

EXHIBITIONS

Exhibition of paintings by four Arab artists from the United States — Ghada Jamal, Helen Khal, Suha Noursi and Afaf Zurayk — at the

Abdul Hameed Shoman Foundation Gallery in Jabal Amman, between the First and Second Circles (10 a.m. - 4 p.m.)

Islamic book exhibition at the Islamic Centre in Zarqa.

FILM

French film entitled "Police Python" at the French Cultural Centre — 8 p.m.

CAREER OPPORTUNITY

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Weekly Political Pulse

Old thinking prevails again?

By Waleed Sadi

1 PROBABLY run the risk of being labeled a defeatist if I say that I detect among some Palestinian factions a return to the mentality of pre-1948 which ended up costing the Palestinian people dearly. Not that that past state of mind was wrong or illegitimate per se. Far from it. The Palestinian state of mind then was morally and ethically right. And when the Palestinian leadership then rejected the British White Paper as a basis for resolving the Palestinian problem, and thereafter the U.N. Partition plan, it was completely "right" also.

This cycle of rejecting the available or the possible was predicated on the proposition that the Palestinians had the power and organisation then to chew what they were biting. Of course, it is now a common admission that for a variety of reasons, the Palestinians and some of their Arab neighbours had bitten off more than they were able to chew and, at the end, lost most of what they were determined to salvage.

The moral of the pre-1948 era in the Palestine case is that being right alone is never sufficient to turn the geopolitical equation in the Palestinians' favour. In retrospect, the Palestinian people ended up being "dead right," which may have been of some consolation to some Palestinians who managed to live elsewhere and make a new start but in no way was it an acceptable relief to the majority who assumed the brunt of its dire consequences.

There is a fine line that separates defeatism from patriotism which the present Palestinian leadership must walk in its search for an effective policy and practice in order to salvage what could be saved from the Palestinian territory and national rights.

It is infinitely easier to say no to the various scenarios being contemplated for settling the Palestinian case than to accept them conditionally. In a certain conference on the Arab-Israeli conflict last year, Avraham Burg, a member of the Knesset and third in the hierarchy of the Israeli Labour Party, counselled the participating Palestinians to learn at least one thing from the Zionist

movement. That was, in his opinion and interpretation, never to say no to anything offered to you.

Granted, Mr. Burg has overstated the case for pragmatism when he, as an Israeli Parliamentarian and a member of the Peace Movement, called on the Palestinians, including the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO), to accept anything that would be put on the negotiating table. What he was probably hinting at is the need to learn the lessons of Zionism which indeed succeeded in establishing a Jewish state on the ashes of Arab Palestine by seemingly accepting half loaves when in fact it coveted the whole ones.

There is a school of thought gaining currency in these contemporary times. It maintains that had the Palestinians accepted to join the Camp David Accords in 1979, they would have been by now at least 3/4 of the way to their ultimate national aspirations for statehood and independence. Many seasoned Palestinians, who prefer to stay silent or anonymous, would also diagnose the rejection of the basis of the Camp David peace treaty as synonymous with the reasoning that was adopted in 1947/48 as grounds for rejecting the U.N. Partition Plan for Palestine, and the U.N. Security Council draft resolution that was tabled by Washington prior to the presentation of Resolution 242. Some of the idealist Palestinian factions would have us go back to the same posture that dominated the Palestinian scene in those terrible years.

True, the international and regional conditions prevailing now are markedly different from those that existed in the post World War II era. The international climate has in some ways at least improved substantially in favour of the Palestinians. In the years that preceded the end of the British mandate over Palestine and also during the following odd years, the Palestinian people had barely received international notice, much less recognition. The Palestinian case was viewed as a refugee situation that can be best

handled by UNRWA.

The current conditions are a far cry from that earlier period and the Palestinian people are better organised and better understood and recognised as people with legitimate national rights and legitimate aspirations. The tricky part is how much and how far the more self-confident and assertive Palestinians can push in their quest for attaining their elusive objectives.

Cool calculations based on scientific data and well-examined and considered projections need to be initiated for fear that, as favourable as the present regional and international climate is, it is not so good as not to pose a limit on the Palestinian drive for statehood and independence.

It would seem that the most rational and sane approach to this noble Palestinian struggle is to maximise Jordanian-Palestinian coordination on all fronts. This is not happening in spite of all protestations to the contrary. There is no way the Palestinians can achieve their ultimate goals in isolation from Jordan since the end result will have to be juxtapositioned within and under the Jordanian umbrella that is already being offered to the Palestinian negotiating teams.

This reasoning brings one in closer contact with the envisaged federation scheme being contemplated between the projected Palestinian state and Jordan. Notwithstanding the decision to break legal and administrative relations between the two banks, one can easily view His Majesty King Hussein as the King of both sides especially when it is recalled that he is above all an Arab king and a Hashemite monarch flagbearing the message of the Arab Revolt and spearheading its sense of Arabism and nationalism.

Making the association between the Jordanians and Palestinians clearer as of now would infinitely enhance the prospects for Palestinian attainment of their national goals and render the likelihood of a drift into self-defeating tactics more remote.

Who started the fire?

HIS MAJESTY King Hussein's declaration that Jordanian and Palestinian negotiating teams form one joint delegation to the Arab-Israeli peace talks that cannot be separated lays to rest all speculations about Jordan's next move in the peace process. In a television interview with an American network broadcast Sunday, the King was loud and clear on how he saw the prospects for reconvening the next round for peace negotiations with Israel. "You can't go with half a delegation, if only from the point of view of form," the King replied to a question on whether Jordan will attend the next round of peace parleys in Washington in April.

This principled position is derived from the deep conviction that Jordanians and Palestinians have an overlapping agenda that requires the joint participation of the two parties. Jordan has been recognised by all parties to the peace process as very active and keen on an early resumption of the talks. But Jordan would first see all obstacles put in the path of Palestinian participation removed.

This Jordanian posture should serve to accelerate the resolution of the stand-off over the issue of the Palestinian expellees now in their third month away from their homeland. Israel and the other parties to the peace talks will be hard put to attend the projected round of peace discussion without the attendance of two principal parties. The resumption of the bilateral peace negotiations calls for the involvement of all the main delegations, especially the Palestinians, if it is expected to serve a meaningful purpose. That is why there is now an added conviction that the issue of the Palestinian expellees will find a solution in the upcoming weeks. Jordan's stance will reinforce the need for resolving the issue of the expellees.

Given the fact that the Palestinian leadership has yet to pronounce themselves in categorical terms on whether to attend or boycott the next stage in peace talks, there is every reason to expect a convergence of factors and developments that will lead to an expeditious resolution of the remaining obstacles in the face of the peace process. In retrospect, no party can afford to let the next opportunity to wage peace in the region slip away.

Determined efforts need to be exerted by all sides to overcome the lingering hurdles laying ominously in the path of peace in the Middle East. The Israeli side bears awesome responsibility if it continues to abort all reasonable endeavours to find an equitable solution to the problem of the banished Palestinians. Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin created the problem when he decided to arbitrarily exile hundreds of Palestinians. It is up to him to offer a remedy that can defuse the problem once and for all.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

AL RA'I Arabic daily strongly condemned all forms of terrorism whether waged by individuals or nations against people and countries. "Though we condemn any terrorist attacks anywhere, we cannot but condemn any unjust accusations levelled at the Arab and Muslim people that they condone or support acts of terrorism," it said. The paper said that the bomb attack in New York has opened the door for the U.S. and other Western media to wage a campaign against the Arabs and Muslims who have no role in such an attack. The bomb attack on a commercial centre in New York could have come from a desperate man — Arab or otherwise — one who could be determined to take revenge on society or a lunatic, the paper said. It said that there are nations which continue to practise open campaigns of terror and aggression on others and escape retribution. "Those countries which continue to occupy other nations' lands and those which continue to wage acts of aggression on civilian population, starving them and depriving them of the basic needs of life are committing terrorist acts, it added. It said that the United States, which has committed all kinds of terrorist acts against individuals and countries, does not accept any accusation of being responsible for acts of terrorism but is quick to launch accusations against others, calling Arabs and Muslims terrorists. At the same time, said the paper, the United States continues to condone actions committed by those who continue to occupy Arab territory and continue to commit atrocities against the Arab people.

WITHOUT THE Palestinians, there can be no real peace in the Middle East and without the Palestinian participation in the talks the peace process can have no meaning at all, said Tareq Masarweh in Al Ra'i daily. The writer said that if the Palestine question is not on the agenda of the negotiators then the whole process is aimed at achieving normalisation of relations between Israel and the Arab states, which is not in the interest of anyone let alone the Palestinians. The U.S.-Israeli alliance is now planning to achieve separate peace treaties with the Arab states, something which would keep Iraq and other Arab states isolated from the rest of the Arab Nation as was in the case of Egypt which signed the Camp David agreement, the writer said. He said that the current peace process is like a train manufactured in the United States and driven by an Israeli, taking the Arab states away from the Palestinians and Iraqis and towards a destination that does not augur well for the Arab Nation. The United States has an interest in such peace in order to deepen the splits within the Arab World and to ensure its total hegemony over the Arab Nation and its oil wealth, the writer added. The writer warned that a peace process without the Palestinians and devoid of lasting solution to their problem can be by no means attain peace for the region but rather would leave the Arab Nation facing a grim future.

By Naseer Aruri

U.S. NEWSPAPER reports in early November 1992 spoke of a certain disquiet among American Jews over the widely circulating rumours that Warren Christopher, co-director of Bill Clinton's transition team, would be appointed secretary of state. The American-Israeli Public Affairs Committee (AIPAC), the principal pro-Israeli lobby in Washington, had been campaigning against Mr. Christopher because of his affiliation with the Carter administration, which was perceived by sectors of the Jewish community as not being sufficiently friendly to Israel.

The rumours proved to be true. But on the 13th day of Mr. Clinton's presidency, Secretary of State Christopher announced a deal with Israel whereby it agreed to repatriate 101 Palestinians out of the 413 who were expelled to Lebanon in December in return for a U.S. guarantee to veto any move in the Security Council calling for sanctions against Israel. It is as if to say that it is legal to expel 300 Palestinians but illegal to expel one hundred — an ominous beginning for millions of Arab and Third World people who watch the United Nations being increasingly used as an arm of United States foreign policy.

The only other clues to Mr. Clinton's Middle East policy at this time are his campaign statements and actions, as well as his appointments. A quick glance at his foreign policy team reveals that none of the top people is a Middle East expert. With the exception of Secretary of Defence Les Aspin, everyone else served under President Jimmy Carter. Warren Christopher was Mr. Carter's deputy secretary of state. Anthony Lake, who heads the National Security Council (NSC), was director of the State Department's policy planning staff; Samuel Berger, who served as Lake's deputy under Mr. Carter, is now Mr. Lake's deputy under Mr. Clinton; CIA Director James Woolsey was Mr. Carter's under-secretary of the navy. Several others occupy sub-cabinet posts.

Will this overwhelming presence of the Carter legacy at the top infuse Mr. Clinton's foreign policy with some of President Carter's concerns in that realm — a touch of multilateralism, human rights, curbing the spread of weapons, promising cuts in the defence budget, promoting democracy? Will it make a difference to Mr. Clinton's Middle East policy? Mr. Clinton's campaign speeches and his inaugural address enunciated such themes as "inclusiveness", promised America higher moral standards and expressed antipathy to special interests and entrenched lobbies. He pledged to promote democracy and human rights but he did not say how he would deal with allies who violate human rights.

Will the new president make a more serious effort towards applying a single standard of human rights rather than utilise the subject as a tool to advance his political agenda — as George Bush did in the Gulf? Bill Clinton's brief performance so far is a study in contrasts. His appointments of insiders, lobbyists, millionaire superlawyers and corporate moguls accentuate the gap between reality and rhetoric. At least half a dozen cabinet selections, including Warren Christopher and Samuel Berger, hail from powerful corporate positions. And yet some of Mr. Clinton's appointments are from less affluent but fairly well organised groups, women, blacks and Hispanics, as well as the very affluent and well organised Jewish community, which is very well represented at the cabinet and sub-cabinet levels, particularly in foreign policy and especially Middle East policy.

What is novel about Mr. Clinton's Middle East policy team is that the semblance of impartiality, which is generally regarded as necessary for the role of honest broker and catalyst for peace, is totally absent. In fact, the range of controversy in Mr. Clinton's kitchen debate on the Middle East extends between AIPAC, and Americans for Peace Now (APN) — and entirely Zionist family affair. Recognising the importance of the Jewish vote and campaign contributions, Mr. Clinton recruited staffers and advisers from across the Jewish spectrum. But their process of formulating a Middle East policy for Mr. Clinton and setting up a team of advisers was not free from tensions. The Jewish Peace Lobby, whose membership is drawn largely from APN, pressed Mr. Clinton not to rely upon AIPAC for advice. Its criteria for adviser recruitment were expressed in a letter sent to the transition team:

What he must avoid are appointees closely



associated with groups that blindly supported the Shamir government, and analysts who crossed over into advocacy for the positions of the Likud.

In the jockeying for positions, AIPAC, which was accused of having tilted towards Likud and feared losing its prominence given the ascendancy of Labour in Israel and the Democrats in the U.S., proceeded to clean up its act. Its new director, Steven Grossman, took a large delegation to Israel in early January and assured Mr. Rabin that AIPAC would play by the prime minister's rules.

Given the parameters of Middle East policy, defined largely, if not exclusively, by hawks, doves and mainstream Jewish groups, the Clinton approach to the issue was vintage Clinton. It is no secret that the new president sees himself as a consensus builder. That makes him sensitive predominantly to the needs of the organised groups whose approval counts; it goes without saying that Arab-Americans are outside the contest.

Early in the campaign Mr. Clinton resorted to the familiar pandering which U.S. politicians engage in at least once every four years. The confrontation between Bush and Israel seemed an absolutely ready-made issue for a Democratic candidate in pursuit of votes. He challenged Mr. Bush's linkage of loan guarantees to the territorial issue; he told the Jewish Leadership Council, "the lack of positive vision has led to miscalculations and missed opportunities", and, while he praised Mr. Bush and former U.S. Secretary of State James Baker for convening the peace talks, he retorted: "but they have chosen to browbeat Israel, the region's sole democracy, while nurturing ties to Syria's despotic regime".

Mr. Clinton claimed Jerusalem the capital of Israel and opposed creating an independent Palestinian state.

1. AIPAC and the Jewish mainstream:

Having established himself as the truly pro-Israel candidate, Mr. Clinton began to build up a team of advisers to fashion a Middle East policy. Its membership is very revealing both in terms of their positions across the Jewish spectrum and their broader world views.

These are Stuart Eizenstat, Steven Spiegel, Michael Mendelbaum and Martin Indyk. The last was assigned the task of drawing up the main position paper for the transition team.

It is significant that Mr. Clinton's consensus building within the Jewish community seemed to assign tasks proportionately, according to his assessment of the power configurations in the community and his own conception of U.S. interests.

While the Jewish Peace lobby was given access to Mr. Clinton and a hearing, in addition to positions in the transition team and in the administration, the mainstream and AIPAC were assigned both positions and policy-formulation functions. For example, the four persons commissioned to set the tone of Mr. Clinton's Middle

East policy came from the AIPAC-mainstream axis. The key person, Martin Indyk, is an Australian Jew whose naturalisation as a U.S. citizen had to be completed in time for his appointment as the top Middle East "expert" in the NSC.

Prior to his founding the Washington Institute for Near East Policy in 1985 he served as assistant research director for AIPAC. Although he does not like to be identified with AIPAC and makes it a point to describe the Washington Institute as a non-partisan scholarly think-tank, its pro-Israeli character is undeniable.

Mr. Eizenstat comes from the mainstream of the Jewish community with a position close to that of AIPAC, i.e. now Mr. Rabin's policy. Mr. Spiegel, a UCLA political scientist, is also close to AIPAC, and so is Mr. Mendelbaum, a Johns Hopkins political scientist, who is generally a foreign policy hardliner.

Thus, the four people entrusted with the premier task of drawing up the main position paper for Mr. Clinton's transition team include no one from the Jewish Peace Lobby.

The Washington Institute has succeeded in transforming itself from a peripheral pro-Israel organisation to a source of Middle East policy, and personnel for the Clinton administration. As the sole "expert" on the Middle East at the White House, Mr. Martin Indyk will have a major role in policy formulation. Anthony Lake, the titular head of the White House policy team, is likely to be involved in broader rather than narrow aspects of policy.

Others from the Jewish establishment and AIPAC who played an important role in the transition include Morris Amitay, a former AIPAC director, and Richard Schifter, who left the Bush administration a year ago, apparently due to differences with Mr. Baker over policy on Israel. He is the new head of the U.S. delegation to the U.N. Human Rights Commission in Geneva. Samuel Lewis, who was U.S. ambassador to Israel from 1977 to 1985, is the new director of policy planning in the State Department.

2. The Zionist peace faction

As far as the peace faction in the Jewish community is concerned, a number of people associated with Americans for Peace Now have close ties with the Clinton administration and some were offered senior positions, but none were included in the formal bodies working on the Middle East, either during the campaign or after. And yet the Jerusalem Post last month, apparently referring to Samuel Berger's appointment as deputy national security adviser, explained it thus:

Clinton's appointees to foreign policy positions represent neither mainstream Jewish-American opinion nor a centrist Israeli position. On Middle East issue, his administration is composed almost exclusively of Yossi Sarid and Shlomo Aloni counterparts.

In fact such "counterparts" like Peter Edel-

man, Eli Segal, Stanley Sheinbaum and others, have no Middle East positions in the administration.

Given that the competing views on Middle East policy in the Clinton administration are fairly limited to the American Jewish community, it seems necessary to ask whether there is really a controversy, and if so, what is it?

Perhaps the single most important difference between the peace camp, represented by Edelman, Sheinbaum and others on the one hand, and the mainstream-AIPAC group on the other, is the extent to which the U.S. government should be involved in the peace negotiations. While the former groups advocate much stronger U.S. participation to salvage the "peace process", the Indyk group emphasises the need for the parties to advance substantially before Washington can intervene with "bridging" proposals.

The latter group also expresses strong opposition to any modification of the Madrid framework. Other differences between them are simply subtle and nuanced.

Domestic versus international priorities

For the first time since Israel was established, consensus building on the Middle East in the official U.S. arena has practically become a Zionist family affair. The various constituencies (church groups, blacks, Arab-Americans, the "oil lobby" and the "Arabists"), who have traditionally argued for restraint on uncritical support for Israel, are virtually absent.

An important issue, besides the Arab-Israeli negotiations, relates to domestic versus international priorities. How much involvement, how much aid will the U.S. be able to give? What is quite certain is that Bill Clinton is not a neo-isolationist; what is less certain is whether he is a neo-realist, like Mr. Carter, or a reassessmentist like Mr. Reagan and Mr. Bush.

Despite his personal warmth and conciliatory demeanour, Mr. Clinton appealed to conservatives by preaching toughness. "International outlaws" were already warned that he would be vigilant. But Mr. Clinton was elected almost entirely on domestic rather than international issues.

With regard to foreign aid, key congressional leaders indicated recently that reductions are likely to occur in the near future. Lee Hamilton, chairman of the House foreign affairs Middle East sub-committee, criticised the "skewed distribution", whereby 60 per cent of the total foreign aid goes to Israel, Egypt and Turkey. Stuart Eizenstat said Israel must learn to wean itself away from \$1.2 bn in U.S. non-military assistance, and must not take for granted the \$1.8 bn in military aid. Senator Patrick Leahy, chairman of the foreign operations sub-committee of the Senate appropriations committee said, however, that while foreign aid will surely be reduced, Israel "will fare well" in the reallocation.

Surely Mr. Clinton will have an easier time with his constituents reducing foreign aid than cutting social security benefits. This time, however, the uproar which normally accompanies hints of trial balloons regarding aid cuts to Israel is not expected to surface. For the decision itself will be made largely by Israel's own supporters within the administration and among the congressional leadership. And while Israel's aid might be reduced, trade is likely to be enhanced and prepositioning of military equipment stepped up.

Mr. Clinton's decision to oppose any initiative to enforce the Security Council resolution that unanimously condemned Israel for the expulsion of Palestinians will most likely be a defining event for the new Middle East policy. It would be a departure from the Bush-Baker policy on expulsion, which itself marked a retreat from earlier positions. Together, with Mr. Clinton's anticipated treatment of Israeli settlements as not such an "obstacle to peace", the next result would have some ominous legal implications.

Arab negotiators are likely to face not only a recalcitrant Israel but a more Israelised American policy.

If the U.S. is unwilling to enforce Resolution 799, would it ever help in the enforcement of Resolution 242?

Dr. Aruri is professor of political science at South Eastern Massachusetts University. The article is a reprint from Middle East International.

SUSPECT
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Suspect's father says son is innocent

(Continued from page 1)

cent." Mohammad's father, a retired first lieutenant, from the army's medical corps, said in the presence of two of Mohammad's brothers who expressed similar surprise at the arrest of their eldest brother.

"Why didn't he flee the United States if he was guilty?" he asked. Amin Salameh, who now works for a freight clearance company, asserted that the arrest of his son was fabricated by the U.S. government to please the Zionist lobby in the United States.

"Israel wants to ruin the relationship between (the United States and Muslims) with all this talk about fundamentalism and extremism," he said.

"I go to the mosque and say my prayers but this does not mean I am an extremist," said Amin Salameh, who lives in a brick apartment located in the middle of a narrow unpaved alley.

Since he left for the U.S. in 1988, Mohammad contacted his family regularly and occasionally made financial contributions to his family in which the father is the only breadwinner.

Mohammad contacted his family last by telephone a month ago and his father said, "there was nothing unusual in the call." The family heard of Mohammad's arrest in the news and his father said he had not been contacted by the Jordanian authorities.

The father said the media were the only means of receiving news about his son who has no relatives in the United States. He said he has not heard from his son since his arrest. Mohammad's lawyer said in New York the suspect had sent a letter to his father saying he was innocent.

The father said he has nothing to say to his son but "God is with him. God is with us."

AP adds: The mother of Salameh also said Sunday she was convinced he is innocent. "He had big dreams," said his mother, Aysha, 45. "He wanted to fulfill his dreams in America. He is not a terrorist."

"I am sure of America's fair justice, and that my son will come out of this nightmare soon," she told the Associated Press. "I am

not the mother of a terrorist."

Family members denied Salameh was a Muslim fundamentalist, as claimed by U.S. officials. But they also said his life underwent a noticeable change in his final years of high school in Jordan that continued through his Islamic Law Studies.

"He became religious, started to pray and read the Koran with other friends in high school," said a brother, Ahmad. "He stopped most of his past activities and hobbies and even grew a beard."

"He was not a fundamentalist. He was interested in Islamic teachings," said Ahmad, who was reluctant to be photographed, saying his blond beard might be misinterpreted as a token of fundamentalism.

The family lives in a four bedroom house which it built two years after Mr. Salameh travelled to the United States on Feb. 17, 1988. Mr. Salameh went to study and try to fulfill his dream of earning a master's degree in business administration, his family said.

U.S. authorities said he stayed in the United States illegally after his visa expired.

He was described as a follower of radical Egyptian cleric Omar Abdul Rahman, who is facing deportation proceedings in the United States. The family denied that Salameh knew Sheikh Abdul Rahman.

Sheikh Abdul Rahman has issued a statement denouncing the bombing.



Elderly residents of the Palestinian village of Beilish read the newspapers, looking for more information on Mohammad Salameh, whose family is from the village where he was born in 1967, before fleeing the Israeli occupation of the West Bank (AFP photo)

Jordanians sceptical over 'Islamic link'

(Continued from page 1)

added, "then perhaps the intention and message to Jordan is to tighten the screw around the Islamists."

Jordan has been the only country tolerating Islamic political groups in the region for more than 35 years where confrontations between these groups and the state have been non-existent, an uncommon phenomenon in the area.

A "crusade against Islam" is how some ordinary people, including seculars, viewed the arrest of Mr. Salameh, whom most believe was framed by people working against Arab interests and for Israeli interests.

Mohammad Khalil, a non-religious Muslim businessman, said that the bombing and "the frameup" of Mr. Salameh was a clear indication that "the West is waging a war against Islam, trying to give Islam the role of the great threat to Western morals and interests."

"Look how the West is dealing with the massacres of Bosnian Muslims by Christian Serbs," Mr. Khalil said. "They sit and watch the killing of Muslims because

they simply want less Muslims in the world, and especially in Europe. They want to eliminate Islam and will fight it under the pretext of Muslim fundamentalism being a danger to Western interests, a war that has already begun in the Western media in the past months."

Islamist Deputy Laith Shbeilat described the New York affair as part of a "new crusade to legitimate American intervention in the area and to create religious hatred and wars."

Mr. Shbeilat insisted that the U.S. establishment was trying to destabilise the Kingdom. "Why wasn't a travel advisory issued to Americans in Egypt where there really are attacks against foreigners?" He said that "whoever is behind this incident did it in the service of Israel."

A youngish salesman, echoing a statement frequently heard in Jordanian circles since Saturday night, said: "They framed an Arab and a Jordanian-Palestinian in particular."

Iyad Qattan, director of the Royal Cultural Centre, and Labib Kamhawi, a political science professor, however, were cautious not to describe the Salameh affair

"He is a good son. He sent us a total of \$5,000 from his savings," his mother said in her modest living room, decorated with pictures of the Dome of the Rock in Jerusalem.

Also in evidence were pictures of Palestinian guerrilla fighters and green flags symbolising the intifada.

Three of Mr. Salameh's brothers — Ahmad, 24, Majdi, 19, and Ramzi, 16 — sat on a sofa next to their mother.

"Mohammad was not affiliated with any political or Islamic party in Jordan," said Ahmad, a student of Islamic religion like his older brother. "He was a peaceful and shy person and never had violent tendencies."

Outside the hilltop house on Zarqa's outskirts, Palestinian refugee children played mock war games with plastic AK-47s and pistols. His mother said the scene was reminiscent of Mr. Salameh's childhood.

Mr. Salameh last telephoned his family on Jan. 19, when he discussed his possible marriage to an American in the United States.

"His father and I always asked him to come back and get married here, but he told us he was looking for a decent American wife," said his mother, adding that the motive may have been to get American citizenship.

The Salameh family lives on the father's army pension of \$200 a month and his monthly salary of another \$200 from his job at a shipping agency that he took after retiring from the army.

Mr. Ricks said the negotiations ended at 3:15 a.m. local time on Sunday (0915 GMT) and resumed at 9:50 a.m. on Sunday (1550 GMT).

Mr. Ricks said loud rock-and-roll music heard blasting from the compound during the night was apparently recorded earlier by the guitar-playing cult leader, aimed at trying to intimidate the police surrounding his fortress.

Mr. Ricks said his followers are free to leave but the FBI said the cult members look for approval from their leader.

Federal authorities did not know the number of dead in the cult complex but some reports said the toll could be as high as 15.

The Branch Davidian sect is an offshoot of a group that split from the Seventh-Day Adventist Church 60 years ago. Cult members consider Mr. Koresh to be the Messiah and believe the end of the world is near.

Cult leader

(Continued from page 1)

For the second straight day the FBI issued a public appeal to Mr. Koresh, who is known to monitor radio and television broadcasts of the briefings from the farm complex east of Waco.

"We will do almost anything within our power to get this settled," Mr. Ricks said. But, he said Mr. Koresh continually makes demands and rejects them after the FBI agrees to his terms.

In one example authorities agreed to send in milk for the children after Mr. Koresh asked for it. But when it was offered, he rejected it, Mr. Ricks said.

At another point a six-year-old girl named Melissa spoke directly to negotiators over the telephone saying she wanted to come out and join the 21 children released earlier. Mr. Ricks said she spoke cheerfully of leaving but later said she had changed her mind, seeming to be "parroting" words that someone told her to speak.

In what seemed to be almost a supplication aimed at Mr. Koresh, Mr. Ricks said the entire affair — which began one week ago when four agents of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms died in a gun battle while trying to arrest Mr. Koresh on a weapons charge — "could be resolved in the next hour...it's within his power."

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Iran and Turkey in Central Asia

Complementary or competing roles?

By Mushahid Hussain

THE NOVEMBER 1992 visit to Iran of Turkish Prime Minister Suleyman Demirel underlined the mutual need for a better relationship between these two Muslim neighbours who are active and important players in Central Asia. Along with Pakistan, both are founders of the Economic Cooperation Organisation (ECO) which now includes the independent Muslim republics of Azerbaijan, Turkmenistan, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan, Kyrgyzstan and Kazakhstan, as well as Afghanistan.

When the Central Asian republics became independent it was Turkey that was promoted by the West, particularly the U.S., as a model for them to emulate. During his visit to Islamabad in October 1992, Mr. Demirel spoke at some length on this notion of a "Turkish model" for Central Asia. He said that "we are not going to run these countries, they will have to run themselves. If they adopt something from Turkey, it is their business, we are not going to impose our model on them. But we would like to see them as democratic, secular and market-oriented countries. If they ask us, we will give them advice."

Referring to some of the things Turkey has in common with the Central Asian region, Mr. Demirel said that "we share a common history, a common language, a common religion and a common culture. We are cousins cut off from each other for over 100 years, first by the Russians under the Czars, and then by the Communist regime." He discounted any element of rivalry between Turkey, Iran and Pakistan in Central Asia, adding that "we all want these countries to develop according to their own desires and we all agree that we should be helping them to stand on their own feet."

Turkey has been quick to establish embassies in all the Central Asian states and the importance Turkey attaches to this region was underlined by the Turkish ambassador in Kazakhstan

when he said that 1,170 Turkish delegations had visited the region within a year.

Despite its professed secularism, Turkey has provided some financial assistance for Islamic education and worship in Azerbaijan and Uzbekistan. The first Turkish mission to open in the region was its embassy in Tashkent, in April 1992. The Uzbek government responded to this gesture by locating it at the spacious old foreign ministry. Uzbekistan has also requested Turkish language teachers. Turkey has also been providing financial assistance. Credits worth approximately \$500m have been given to the region, with offers of expert assistance in such areas as tourism and economic management.

Notwithstanding these advantages, the Central Asians are in no mood to accept a "model" after decades of Russian domination. At a recent conference of education ministers of Turkic-speaking countries in Kyrgyzstan, participants resented the presence of the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus and chose not to accept its credentials, despite Turkey's insistence to the contrary. And during an October summit of Turkic-speaking states at Ankara, these countries turned down a Turkish proposal to establish a Common Market among them.

Iran's role is somewhat different from Turkey's since its presence in the region is relatively new. It too has established embassies in all the capitals of the Central Asian region, although it has yet to appoint an ambassador in Uzbekistan. Iran seeks to push economic and cultural interests, while not referring politically to Islam at all. One of Iran's ambassadors in the region pointed out that Iran is the first to dispel the notion about so-called "Islamic fundamentalism" and "export of Islam, which is what the West is keen to label us with. We only want to emphasise our economic relationship and our cultural compatibility." For instance, Iranian radio has started broadcasts in Uzbek and is also planning to

start Kyrgyz language broadcasts. Turkish television can be seen all over Central Asia three hours every evening.

On the economic front, Iran has established the Caspian Sea Cooperation Council which includes Iran, Azerbaijan, Russia, Kazakhstan and Turkmenistan, while Turkey has established the Black Sea Cooperation Council along similar lines. Iran is also keen to establish a rail link with Turkmenistan which could become the shortest route from Europe to China by train. Iran has also proposed the construction of a road between Alma Ata and Mashhad via Turkmenistan.

Kazakhstan has huge reserves of oil at its Tengiz field north of Turkmenistan close to the Caspian Sea. The Tengiz oilfield reportedly has reserves for 40 years. Iran is proposing that the oil pipeline from Tengiz, which already goes to Baku, capital of Azerbaijan, can go down south approximately 500 kilometres in to the Iranian city of Tabriz, which has an oil refinery, and from there the refined oil can be transported to the Gulf. Alternatively, the refined oil could be sent from Tabriz to Turkey for onward export to Europe.

Kazakhstan has a contract with the American oil company, Chevron, who will be responsible for developing Tengiz for the next five years, after which it will own 20 per cent, with the state keeping the other 80 per cent. Chevron has proposed that oil from

Tengiz be sent to Europe through the Black Sea, or that a pipeline could be constructed under the Caspian Sea for onward transmission via Azerbaijan to Europe. In both cases the intent is to bypass Iran.

Given Iran's location and its non-ideological perspective on relations with Central Asia, there is little doubt that it will be an active economic and political player in the region. Iranian sources also say that Kazak President Nazarbayev has assured Iran that he will see some sort of role for it in the export of Kazakhstan's oil.

Whatever the future direction of Central Asia, two things seem to be apparent. First, the much vaunted "Turkish model" has been relegated and in fact superseded by American efforts to play a direct role in Central Asia without surrogates. In fact, the U.S. is keen to promote Israel as an active player in the region. There is a small native Jewish population in Uzbekistan, and the Israelis and Americans are also engaged in a number of joint projects in agriculture and irrigation. Second, despite what the Iranian president, Hashemi Razi Sanjani, termed in February 1992 as "friendly competition" between Iran and Turkey, the kind of role that the two countries have far envisaged for themselves in Central Asia could eventually end up being more complementary than competitive.

Middle East International.

وزارة الاشغال العامة والاسكان
دائرة العطاءات الحكومية

MINISTRY OF PUBLIC WORKS & HOUSING
GOVERNMENT TENDERS DIRECTORATE

INVITATION FOR BIDS CONTRACT NO. 9/93/CENTRAL SALT WATER NETWORK AND HOUSE CONNECTIONS PROJECT

The Water Authority of the Ministry of Water and Irrigation through the Ministry of Public Works and Housing/Government Tenders Directorate, G.T.D., invites experienced contractors from member states of the European Community and contractors from Jordan who have been pre-qualified by the Ministry of Public Works and Housing of Jordan as first grade water and sewerage, two second grades water and sewerage, second grade water and sewerage and second grade roads or second grade in water and sewerage and second grade in buildings to submit their offers for the supply and construction of Salt Water Network and House Connections Project.

Whoever is interested in participating in this tender is requested to contact the Government Tender Directorate at the Ministry of Public Works and Housing Amman, Jordan to receive tender documents starting from 8/3/1993 and in accordance with the following terms:-

1. Scope of Work:- Salt (C2) Water Network and House Connection Project. A. (DIP) pipes diam (100-400)mm (55)km. B. Polyethylene pipes, diam (25.32,63)mm (161) km. C. Galvanized steel pipes diam (1/2, 3/4) (35) km. D. Black steel pipes diam (100, 150) (10) km.
2. The project partially financed by the European Investment Bank (EIB).
3. Each tender price JD (500) non-refundable.
4. Last date for purchase of tender documents is on March 20th, 1993.
5. Offers shall be submitted to the Government Tenders Directorate before 13:30 local time on Saturday 17th April 1993.

Chairman, Central Tenders Committee
Government Tenders Directorate
Eng. Basheer Al Jaghbeer

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Jordan Times'

JORDAN MARKET PLACE

World Youth Soccer Championship

Americans upset Turkey 6-0

ELBOURNE (AP) — Striker Fikri Faklaris scored a sizzling trick Sunday night as the United States swamped European champion Turkey 6-0 in its opening match of soccer's World Youth Championship.

The Americans scored three goals in each half as they stunned the Turks with a succession of brilliant attacks.

Faklaris' three-goal haul was capped by two strikes from Jose Joseph and one from Imad Ha.

Midfielder Baba, an 18-year-old high school senior from Houston, Texas, put the United States ahead in the 21st minute with a bit footed free kick that flew over the top left hand corner of the net.

Clemson University midfielder Joseph made it 2-0 five minutes later after collecting a pinpoint pass from Brian Kelly.

Faklaris, leading goal scorer at the University of South Carolina, tied up the heat with a goal in the 29th minute, hammering the ball home from close range.

He made it 4-0 a minute after time, striking the ball brilliantly from 25 metres out.

Joseph was on target again in the 73rd minute and Faklaris scored his third goal in the 89th minute.

The Americans, whose squad comprises four high school seniors and 14 collegians, constantly kept the pressure on Turkish goalkeeper Yetkin Akman.

Turkish coach Hamdi Serpil said before the match that he had not done any homework on the Americans and that move

backfired on him.

The Americans finished fourth in the 1989 World Youth Championship.

Turkey won the European Championship last year, beating Portugal in the final, but its injury hit squad never looked comfortable against the hard-working Americans.

England - South Korea 1-1: England scored a late equalizer to draw 1-1 with South Korea Sunday night in its opening match of soccer's World Youth Championship.

Tall Chelsea defender Ian Pearce levelled the score with six minutes remaining when he headed home an Alan Thompson corner kick from close range.

The Koreans took the lead in the 32nd minute when Newcastle United defender Steve Watson miscued a clearance and it flew into his own net past Barnsley goalkeeper David Watson.

Nicky Barnby, England's star forward, was closely marked by the Korean defenders and was unable to make much impression other than being cautioned by German referee Helmut Krug in the 12th minute.

Barnby often found himself surrounded by up to four defenders.

The bigger, stronger English players were not able to take advantage of their physical attributes and often struggled against neat inter-passing by the quick and skilful Koreans.

Captain Cho Jun-Ho led South Korea impressively in difficult wet conditions but England recovered to dominate the last 10

minutes.

England and South Korea are with Turkey and the United States in Group C.

The English team were black armbands during the match as a sign of respect for former England captain Bobby Moore, who died last week.

Moore captained England when it won the World Cup at Wembley in 1966.

Saudi Arabia-Brazil 0-0: Saudi Arabia held two time champion Brazil to a 0-0 draw Sunday night in a group D match.

The Saudis created a number of scoring chances in the second half as the pre-tournament favourites from South America struggled to find their rhythm.

Brazil finished the match with 10 new after forward Pereira was sent off in the 73rd minute for his second caution.

One blistering shot from Faded Al Ghesbeyan in the 60th minute forced giant Brazilian goalkeeper Biba to make a desperate diving save to his right.

Al Ghesbeyan was named match MVP.

Russia-Cameroon 2-0: Striker Igor Zazulin scored after 27 seconds and sparked Russia to a 2-0 victory over Cameroon in a Group A match.

Zazulin pounced to score with a header after a cross from Sergei Chudin to set the Russians on the road to victory.

Alexander Karataiev sealed the win when he struck home a curling free kick from 25 metres (yards) out in the 37th minute.

The free-kick was awarded after defender Simon Moukoko fouled Karataiev.

The win lifted Russia to the top of group A on goal difference. Australia also has two points after beating Colombia 2-1 in its opening match Friday in Sydney.

Mexico-Norway 3-0: Vicente Nieto scored a goal in each half Sunday night as Mexico swept to an impressive 3-0 victory over Norway in a Group B match.

Nieto, a 19-year-old left winger from the strong Unam Club in Mexico City, was on target in the 44th and 71st minutes at Hindmarsh Stadium.

Striker Jesus Olalde, who set up Nieto's first goal, scored Mexico's third goal in the 84th minute.

The Mexicans continued to dominate after halftime, despite the absence of star striker Gabriel Garcia, who came on as a 75th minute substitute.

Mexico restricted Norway to only a handful of chances.

Uruguay-Ghana 1-1: Augustine Ahinful scored the equalizer in the 73rd minute Saturday to lift Ghana into a 1-1 draw with Uruguay in a fast-flowing and entertaining Group D match.

Ahinful's shot from about 10 metres beat Uruguayan goalkeeper Sergio Martinez in a match that either side could have won during a wild final 10 minutes.

In that span, both teams had goals disallowed for offside.

The top two teams from each of four groups will advance to the quarterfinals. The tournament continues through March 20.

Jordan national soccer team to play in Qatar

AMMAN (J.T.) — Jordan's national soccer team travels to the Qatari capital Doha, Monday to play two friendly matches against the Qatari national team.

The matches are in preparation for the World Cup qualifying round which will be played in May. The Kingdom's team is grouped with Iraq, Pakistan, Yemen and China.

The Qatari team will play its World Cup qualifying matches against Singapore, North Korea, Vietnam, and Indonesia.

The two matches against Qatar, will be the first abroad for the national team. Last week they played the Syrian national team in Irbid. The match ended in a 1-1 draw.

The Jordanian and Qatari national teams have played ten matches over the past 13 years. Qatar won six times, while Jordan won twice. Two matches ended in a draw.

Jordan Television will televise both matches Friday, March 14 and Sunday, March 16.



Frenchman Anacleto Wamba (right) retained his World Boxing Council cruiserweight title with a victory over American David Veder (AFP photo)

Wamba, Vasquez retain boxing titles

LEVALLOIS, France (AP) — Anacleto Wamba of France and David Vasquez of Puerto Rico defended world championship boxing titles Saturday with decisions over challengers.

Wamba defended his World Boxing Council cruiserweight title over American David Veder. Vasquez held onto his world boxing association super bantamweight crown over Colombian Luis Menboza.

Neither fight was exciting and the champion of the respective divisions won each of the 12 round bouts without much trouble or power.

Wamba, originally from the Congo, is now 40-2. Veder, 20-12, lost his second title fight in less than three months. Last December he bowled to Australian Jeff Harding in a WBC light heavyweight fight.



French driver Francois Delecour (left) and Ford teammate Massimo Biasion of Italy jubilate in Estoril after winning first and second places of the Portuguese Rally (AFP photo)

Delecour wins Portuguese Rally, Biasion second

ESTORIL (AP) — Francois Delecour, who built a sizeable lead on the first day, cruised to his first World Championship rally victory Saturday, winning the Port Wine Rally over Ford teammate Massimo Biasion of Italy by 55 seconds.

After earning the lead on the opening day, the Frenchman, driving a Ford Escort CS Cosworth, was untouchable for the remaining three days and completed the 2,164 kilometres, broken into 38 stages over dirt and asphalt roads in the Portuguese hills, in six hours, 20 minutes and 37 seconds.

GOREN BRIDGE

WITH OMAR SHARIF
AND TAMMAM HIRSH
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ANSWERS TO WEEKLY BRIDGE QUIZ

Q.1—As South, vulnerable, you hold:
♠ 9 8 7 2 ♠ A K Q 7 3 ♠ A 6 4 3
The bidding has proceeded:
West North East South
3 ♠ Pass Pass ?

What action do you take?
A.—Why didn't partner act? With both majors and known club shortage, he would probably have doubled, so it sounds as if he has a flawed holding in one of the majors. In that case you are assured of a fit in one of the red suits. Bid three diamonds.

Q.2—Both vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠ 7 6 2 ♠ K J 5 ♠ Q 10 9 ♠ A Q 5
The bidding has proceeded:
West North East South
1 ♠ Pass Pass ?

What action do you take?
A.—In the balancing seat, all your actions should be shaded by a couple of points. Thus, with 13-15 points and a balanced hand, reopen with one no trump. What if you hold 16-18 balanced? Double first, then bid no trump.

Q.3—As South, vulnerable, you hold:
♠ 10 8 5 2 ♠ A 8 ♠ 6 5 2 ♠ 8 3
The bidding has proceeded:
West North East South
1 ♠ Pass Pass ?

What action do you take?
A.—In the immediate seat, you would not think of acting with such a poor five-card suit. In the balancing seat, suit quality is of lesser importance. You are bidding the cards you expect to find in partner's hand. Reopen with one spade.

Q.4—As South, vulnerable, you hold:
♠ K 8 ♠ A K Q 8 6 3 ♠ 9 8 5 4 ♠ 6 3
The bidding has proceeded:

West North East South
1 ♠ Pass Pass ?
What do you bid now?

A.—From the previous problem it is evident that you can reopen with a relatively weak hand. Therefore, you need to do more than simply bid one heart, but doubling first and then bidding hearts over partner's response does not show this type of hand. The solution is to jump to two hearts, which describes a good one-suiter.

Q.5—As South, vulnerable, you hold:
♠ K 9 5 ♠ A J 9 8 3 ♠ Q 7 6 3 ♠ 4 6
The bidding has proceeded:
West North East South
1 ♠ Pass Pass ?

What action do you take?
A.—In the immediate seat you would overcall one heart—you don't want to double lest partner, with four spades and three hearts, bids some number of spades. But since a simple balancing bid can show so much less, you have to balance here with a double and risk landing in your second-best suit, which is far less costly than missing a game—or a sizeable penalty should partner wish to convert.

Q.6—As South, vulnerable, you hold:
♠ 10 9 5 2 ♠ A J ♠ K 8 3 ♠ 7 6 2
The bidding has proceeded:
East South West North
1 ♠ Pass Pass Dbl
Pass ?

What do you bid now?
A.—Had partner doubled in the immediate seat, you would jump to two spades to show a hand of invitational strength. In the balancing seat, however, partner might double with as few as 11 points, so you should proceed with care. Bid one spade.

HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR MONDAY MARCH 8, 1993

By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

GENERAL TENDENCIES: You can expect some minor startling things to happen during the occasion of the full Moon in Virgo, today but the overall effect has rather a rosy hue allowing you to do pretty much what you want about the practical problems facing you.

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) Consider what older persons of different ideas can do for you, consult with them their views and then energetically get busy making it all work well.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20) Whatever inspires you to make a more prosperous life for yourself now is excellent so arrange for it to be in effect for sometime to come.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) A proven associate of standing has it in his power to benefit you for some favour you have rendered so don't be shy but accept gratefully any ideas.

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) Tasks that have seemed unending and tiresome in the past can now be made much more pleasant for you with beneficial results following.

LEO: (July 22 to August 21) The romance you have enjoyed for sometime should be particularly satisfying now so cheer up and be happy with the one who most appeals to you.

VIRGO: (August 22 to September

22) You have some duties at your home that may take awhile but when you have completed them you will have a fine feeling of satisfaction at a job well done.

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) Your finest abilities can now be expressed in whatever outside activities face you so fill your calendar with worthwhile appointments, attend to them.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) Some material condition that you have put aside can now be revived and be made to bring you in some really practical benefits so be alert.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) A persistent goal that you have had in mind and put aside for the moment is the best means for you to gain the results that make life easier for you.

CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20) You now can rid of a condition you feel to have been a limitation in order to get rid of so apply yourself vigorously to doing so.

AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) An older friend who takes your time generally can be helpful to you in gaining a personal end so listen to and follow any suggestions given to you.

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) Think about what you can do to improve your public standing by some civic or community activity that the public and officials will appreciate.

THE BETTER HALF.

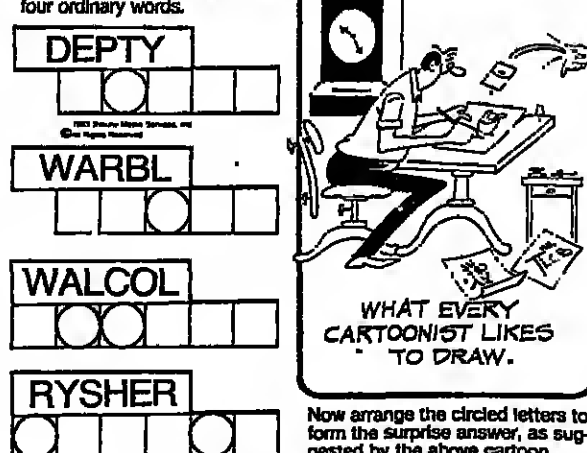
By Glasbergen



"It's stamped right on my driver's license. I'm officially too old to take you out necking in the car."

JUMBLE.

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.



Print answer here: HIS

Yesterday's Jumbles: PUTTY GUILD SEPTIC BETRAY
Answer: An eyesore in the barnyard—A PIG STY

THE Daily Crossword by Bernice Gordon



ACROSS
1 Obscenity
5 Pines
10 Hindu noble
14 Condition of being elegantly surpliced
15 Dutch item
16 Oklahoma city
17 Shorly
18—Hague
19 Tamarisk tree
20 BLUE
23 Diamonds
24 Barbara's Millie
25 Flooded
28 Man, e.g.
30 Throng
33 RED
36 Lends a hand
37 Contraction
38 Chichi
39 GREEN
44 "Chorus Line" song
45 Chorus line
46 Let up
47 Metric measure
48 Coastal finger
49 BLACK
57 Certain African
58 Boie's state
59 Condor's home
60 Revise
61 Large, white goose
62 Train like Holyfield
63 Spot with sanders
64 Chapters of a certain society
65 Hawaiian port
DOWN
1 Chunk
2 Pasture, on the screen
3 Wife's state
4 Sea to
5 Case
6 Borough in Cheshire
7 Possessive
8 Hugh O'Brien's TV role
9 Chase precursor
10 Respond
11 Con
12 St. John
13 "Fables in Slang" author
21 Speak, in a way
22—do well
23 Of the bass
26 Chunk
27 Church section
28 In other words
29 Withered
30 River in France
31 Made a choice
32 Odorous governor
34 Rake
35 Art colony in New Mexico
36 Past
40 Listless
41 Cleopatra's needle
42 Hamlets
43 Source of the Blue Nile
47 Penetrating
48 An Allen
49 Form of self-defense
50 Came to earth
51 Hero
52 Room in a casa
53 Headstrong
54 Military cap
55 Of an age
56 Amateur
57 A letter

Graf, Sanchez Vicario reach final

ELRAY BEACH, Florida (P) — On Saturday, Delray Beach was the place for wipouts. Top seeds, Steffi Graf and Sandra Sanchez Vicario scored six victories to advance to the final at the Virginia Slims of Florida.

First, Sanchez Vicario beat Sandra Coetzee 6-2, 6-2. Then, after an even more dominating performance against low German Anke Huber to 6-1, 6-1.

The final should be closer, though Graf has a 17-3 record against Sanchez Vicario, a second seeded Spaniard, who is at the top of her game and is learning to win points in power as well as patience.

In one sequence against Coetzee, for example, she hit a pair of vice winners, belted an ace, moved in and put away a 10-shot overhead to win the set in six.

"I was very happy with the way I played," Sanchez Vicario said, "but pressure on her and I was massive."

Against the eighth seeded Coetzee, Sanchez Vicario had ace aces and won 15 points in net. But what she still does is get the ball back, and she steadily chased down shots in corners.



Steffi Graf

"The pact that she runs so well is always on your mind," said Coetzee, who has not won a set from Sanchez Vicario in six matches.

Graf, seeded No. 1, is seeking her first title since winning the Virginia Slims of Philadelphia in November. She was able to dominate the fifth-seeded Huber from the baseline, winning the first five games and closing out the match with perhaps her best shot of the night, a sizzling cross court backhand winner.

Huber has lost every set against

Anand overtakes Kasparov

LINARES (AP) — Indian grandmaster Viswanathan Anand defeated Yugoslav Ljuboimir Ljudojevic Saturday to take a half point lead over world champion Garry Kasparov of Russia in the 11th Linares International chess tournament.

Anand, playing white, won in 44 moves.

Kasparov, playing black, drew with Alexander Deljasky of Ukraine in 22 moves, ending the eighth round of the 13 round tournament with 5.5 points of Anand's 6.0 points.

Russian former world champion Anatoly Karpov, playing white, battled American Gata Kamsky for 60 moves before the game was adjourned. Karpov was tied for third in the rankings with Latvian Alexi Shirov.

A player receives one point for a win and a half point for a draw. The ninth round was scheduled for Monday, with an adjourned fifth round game between Ljubojevic and Spaniard Valery Salov and the competition on the Karpov-Kamsky duel slated for Sunday.

eanuts



Andy Capp



Aut'n'Jeff



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CURRENCY	26/2/1993	5/3/1993	Percent Change
Sterling Pound	1.4270	1.4460	1.33%
Deutsche Mark	1.6460	1.6693	(1.40)%
Swiss Franc	1.5265	1.5458	(1.25)%
French Franc	5.5880	5.6555	(1.19)%
Japanese Yen	118.20	117.62	0.49%

USD Per STD

Central Bank of Jordan Exchange Rate Bulletin Date: 7/3/1993

Currency Bid Offer

U.S. Dollar 0.6920 0.6940

Sterling Pound 0.9994 1.0044

Deutsche Mark 0.4141 0.4162

Swiss Franc 0.4473 0.4495

French Franc 0.1222 0.1228

Japanese Yen 0.5880 0.5909

Dutch Guilder 0.3685 0.3703

Swedish Krona 0.0894 0.0898

Italian Lira 0.0438 0.0440

Belgian Franc 0.02013 0.02023

* Per 100

Vietnam issues new dong notes

HANOI (R) — Vietnam has issued new larger-denomination currency notes in an effort to end the practice of people filling suitcases with money to buy more expensive items such as televisions or refrigerators.

Official newspaper said the new 20,000-dong (\$1.90) and 50,000-dong notes (\$4.70) were meant to make life easier for consumers.

The largest note previously was 10,000 dong (95 cents). That was first issued in May 1992, when the largest note had been 5,000 dong (47 cents).

"The money now in circulation

is of such small denominations that it does not meet people's needs for buying and selling, especially for big payments and the purchase of valuable goods," said Communist Party newspaper, Nhan Dan.

Officials at the State Bank of Vietnam worried early last year that the introduction of the 10,000-dong notes would fuel inflation. But the new notes had no such effect.

The bank's tight monetary policy pulled down inflation from an annualized 70 per cent in 1991 to 117 per cent last year.

Tajik aluminium plant to restore output by '94

TURKUNZADE, Tajikistan (R) — Tajikistan's giant aluminium smelter, the third largest in the world, plans to restore output to full capacity within a year and overcome serious damage wrought by civil war and broken supply lines.

The plant, which has an annual capacity of 500,000 tonnes a year, is currently only producing half that amount.

"The government has put before us a major task — to restore the full power of the plant in a year and to regain production levels recorded in the very best years," Director Mikhail Sinani told Reuters in an interview.

The plan to restore output, drawn up by leading officials at the smelter, was formally approved at a government meeting last month.

Mr. Sinani said the plant, which accounted for around 15 per cent of the former Soviet Union's output, planned to steadily cut exports over the next two years as well as boost production of more profitable processed aluminium goods.

Chief engineer Lavrent Gabrielyan said: "At the moment we are on course to produce 250,000 to 260,000 tonnes this year and we have to improve on this." Total 1992 output was 345,000 tonnes.

Months of fighting between ex-communist and Islamic forces have wrecked the economy of the small Central Asian republic and badly affected the plant, which accounts for more than half of the country's hard currency earnings.

Restoring broken economic ties with other Commonwealth countries would help cut the amount of aluminium which had to be bartered for raw materials abroad.

Mr. Gabrielyan said the plant, which previously received most of its alumina from Russia, now had to rely on imports.

"It's more expensive but we have no other choice. We have an agreement with Russia but

they're just not delivering," he pointed out.

Mr. Sinani said the plant planned to use 10 to 15 per cent of its output for making processed goods, which should bring in between \$40 and \$50 million over the next two years.

Output of high-grade metal had fallen from 90 per cent of output to almost nothing. "I think in 18 months to two years we can get back to normal and the quality will be the same," he said.

Mr. Sinani said many of the plant's specialists, most of them Russians, had left Tajikistan as the fighting intensified.

But some of the plant's traditional customers and suppliers had already made concrete offers of help, he added.

"They are offering us credits on easy terms and supplies of raw materials on the understanding they will enjoy advantages in the future. We think this is a normal form of cooperation — we are grateful to them," he said.

Ecological and economic constraints mean the plant will not exceed the 500,000 tonne annual limit.

The plant has already ordered special equipment to overcome what Mr. Sinani said were fairly serious ecological problems.

"We have the best conditions of any aluminium plant in the Commonwealth and roughly meet world standards. But it is impossible to produce such a large amount of aluminium and have no effect on the environment," he said.

Mr. Sinani dismissed frequent Western allegations that former Soviet aluminium producers, desperate for hard currency, have been dumping stocks of the metal at artificially low prices.

"We sell high-grade aluminium only at world levels. There are discounts for metal of low quality — we make big discounts for this kind of metal," he said.

Sao Tome to set up tax free zone in December

SAO TOME (R) — African island state Sao Tome and Principe plans to establish a tax free zone in December, Prime Minister Norberto Costa Alegre said Friday.

He planned to invite foreign investment to the island state in the Gulf of Guinea, he said as he set off on a three-week visit to the United States, Germany, Italy

and Portugal.

Mr. Alegre, elected in Sao Tome's first free elections in 1991, was also due to discuss aid and cooperation agreements.

The World Bank and the International Monetary Fund are expected to release a \$30 million credit to carry out Sao Tome's economic liberalisation programme.

Lloyd's names have long wait for return to big financial gains

LONDON (R) — Lloyd's names, individuals who back the Lloyd's of London insurance market with personal wealth, will have to wait until 1996 for a return of the big financial gains they enjoyed before the record losses of the late 1980s.

While most underwriters of risk look ahead optimistically to 1993, names' attention remains firmly fixed on the 1990 underwriting result, which will be announced in June this year, in line with Lloyd's practice of reporting three years in arrears to allow time for claims to be processed.

Charles Sturge of independent Lloyd's analyst Chatet said the 1990 result would test the cash resources of the names after losses of \$2.06 billion (\$3.2 billion at current exchange rates) for 1989 and \$510 million (\$786 million) for 1988.

Underwriters are all too aware of the financial bettering names have taken recently and they acknowledge that the 1990 pure loss may be close to £1.5 billion (\$2.3 billion).

"We have one very difficult year ahead of us in 1990. Nineteen-ninety-one is going to be marginal one way or the other, with 1992 the first year of reasonable profit and certainly all the elements are there for a much stronger 1993," one underwriter said.

Many names have already had

to delve deep to cover the record 1989 loss and nobody is willing to speculate how much more they can cover.

"My only concern for 1990 is names' ability to stay in the market and take advantage of the upturn," said Nigel Rogers, managing director of the Octavian Group of Lloyd's members' and managing agencies.

As many as 13,000 of the 22,000 names, including foreign names, are estimated to have joined one of the many action groups formed to pursue allegations of poor management or neglect against agents and underwriters.

Lloyd's new chief executive, Peter Middleton, is widely seen as having eased confrontation between the names and Lloyd's, although few doubt the scale of the task that he faces.

"Everyone wants to do a deal," said Tow, Benyon, chief executive of the Society of Names, which has formed to look after the interests of Lloyd's backers.

"But if the (1990) losses are £2 billion again, it's going to be very worrying for the names who thought the problems of the last two years were behind them," he added.

Mr. Benyon said late claims from previous years could add as much as \$500 million (\$771 million) to the 1990 pure loss. But he believes that Mr. Mid-

dleton and David Rowland, the new chairman of Lloyd's, will restore confidence in the market, adding that names were more resilient than he had expected.

"The wealth of names surprises me. A lot of them are far richer than I thought and are paying their losses and getting on with it," said Mr. Benyon.

However, Lloyd's of London underwriters are confident they will have a bumper year in 1993.

George Lloyd-Roberts, chairman of the Lloyd's Non-Marine Underwriters Association, said there was an overwhelming feeling that things were getting better in the non-marine market and a great feeling of optimism for 1993.

Underwriters said renewal rates for most types of insurance saw large increases towards the end of 1992.

"It's very much a Lloyd's underwriters' market for 1993," said Mr. Rogers.

A recent survey of Lloyd's underwriters showed insurance rates and premium income continued to move strongly upward in the last quarter of 1992. In the past three months 85 per cent said rates increased. None reported a reduction.

"Overall for Lloyd's, I would be very enthusiastic about 1993, given a reasonably normal year, some large sums of money will be made," said one underwriter,

adding that it was probably the strongest market he had seen in 30 years.

Catastrophe insurance rates rose steeply after hurricane Andrew, which hit southern Florida and the Gulf of Mexico coastal regions of Louisiana and Mississippi last August. Lloyd-Roberts said, adding: "Nineteen-ninety-two should be highly profitable.... and we have real reasons to be optimistic about 1993."

Marine underwriters said they expected exceptionally good 1993 results after three- and four-fold premium increases in the last two years following a lean period.

Motor vehicle rates are rising in line with the composite insurance companies who dominate the market and are pushing through big premium increases after suffering huge losses from a surge in recession-related crime in the last two to three years.

Lloyd's motor underwriters said they expected to make money in the next three years and beyond if the harder rates held.

Only in aviation are premium rates lagging the general upward trend. John Westcott, chairman of Lloyd's Aviation Underwriters Association, said most aviation underwriters would make a loss on 1990 and 1991, but he saw signs that the market was turning as reinsurance rates were beginning to rise.

U.S. loan guarantees for farm exports said to carry risks, few benefits

WASHINGTON (AP) — The U.S. Agriculture Department (USDA) has guaranteed billions of dollars in loans to countries that may never repay the money, and taxpayers could get the bill, congressional investigators say.

The General Accounting Office, which reviewed USDA's export credit guarantee programme, also found no evidence that the credits have increased total U.S. farm exports and said they may have merely rerouted trade flows.

In a report obtained by the Associated Press, the congressional auditing agency said large loans have been made to high-risk countries, including Iraq and the former Soviet Union.

Iraq has refused to repay \$1.9 billion in loans guaranteed by the department. Russia has defaulted on \$127 million in loan payments

since early December, although USDA officials insist Russia's credit troubles are temporary.

Under the two programmes, known as general sales manager (GSM) 102 and 103, USDA guarantees bank loans to certain countries that cannot pay cash for American farm products or obtain commercial credit. The borrowing countries use the loans to buy U.S. grain and other farm products.

The largest recipient of guarantees are Mexico, South Korea, Iraq, and the former Soviet Union, including Russia.

USDA general guarantees 98 per cent of the principal and some interest, but in the case of the former Soviet Union and Russia, it guaranteed 100 per cent of the principal.

The loans must be repaid within six to 36 months under GSM

102 and within three to 10 years under GSM 103.

USDA argued that of the \$40.9 billion in guarantees extended since 1981, the government has only been required to cover \$3.6 billion.

But GAO investigators said agriculture's calculations are misleading and that the actual cost to taxpayers is much higher and will mount every year the programme is in operation. The GAO said the cost of taxpayers, had the programme ended June 30, 1992, would be \$6.5 billion.

Stephano Censky, acting administrator of USDA's foreign agricultural service, argued that the programme's history does not bear out the GAO's estimates of future losses.

He said Iraq is the only country that has refused to repay its

loans; only Russia is not current with its payments; and only one country in recent memory, Poland, had its loans, worth more than \$1 billion, forgiven.

The programme has spurred exports for domestic growers in countries that would otherwise be unable to pay cash or get commercial credit for their purchases, Mr. Censky said. But the GAO said it was unable to find any evidence to suggest the programme resulted in an overall expansion of U.S. farm exports.

The congressional investigative agency said the credit guarantees may increase sales to some markets. But it is also possible the GSM sales may prompt competitor countries to concentrate their efforts in other nations, displacing potential U.S. sales to those countries.

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ANNOUNCEMENT

New administration for the club of the German Speaking Universities & Institutes graduates (Amman).

The General Assembly of the Club of German Speaking Universities & Institutes held its annual meeting in the presence of a representative of the Ministry of Interior. The financial and administrative reports have been approved and then a new administration elected and the following won the elections:

1. Engineer Elmrh Affani	Chairman
2. Dr. Hani Al Shak'a	Vice-Chairman
3. Dr. Laila Naim	Secretary
4. Mr. Ghalib Salim Sawalha	Treasurer
5. Engineer Abdallah Jaradat	Member
6. Mrs. Nadia Abdel Hadi Sukhtian	Member
7. Dr. Nabil Nassar	Member

Decisions for fundamental changes on the club regulations have been taken by the General Assembly.

Yeltsin calls for cooperation with all Russian political forces

MOSCOW (R) — President Boris Yeltsin said Sunday he would consult all of Russia's political forces in a further effort to defuse tension ahead of next week's emergency congress.

"I have reached some conclusions as to steps I must take, taking into account the political situation. First of all is consultation with different movements, political parties and organisations," Mr. Yeltsin told Commonwealth Television.

It was the second time in two days that Mr. Yeltsin appeared in a cooperative mood before the expected showdown next week with the Congress of People's Deputies over Russia's political future.

On Saturday, Mr. Yeltsin said he was ready to cooperate with his opponents in the legislature to end the political crisis, although

hardliners gave no sign they were willing to compromise.

Mr. Yeltsin was expected to appear on Commonwealth Television late Sunday night to lay out his views on the political situation and possibly disclose his proposed questions for an April 11 referendum on the country's power structure.

Last week, Deputy Prime Minister Vladimir Shumeiko, head of Mr. Yeltsin's Commission on the Referendum, said three questions had been drafted and would probably be announced by the president this weekend.

According to the ITAR-TASS News Agency, the questions ask whether the new constitution should give citizens unconditional rights to own land; and whether a two chamber Supreme Soviet should be Russia's sole legislative

organ.

Lawmakers have yet to announce their proposed questions, which must be approved by the Congress.

The referendum is one of two main items on the agenda of the Congress, which begins Wednesday.

Also on the agenda for the session is a move to study whether any Russian leaders violated the constitution, which could be a prelude to impeachment.

The constitutional court already has ruled that Mr. Yeltsin violated some articles of the constitution — by banning Communist Party structures after the failed 1991 coup, and by banning the hardline National Salvation Front.

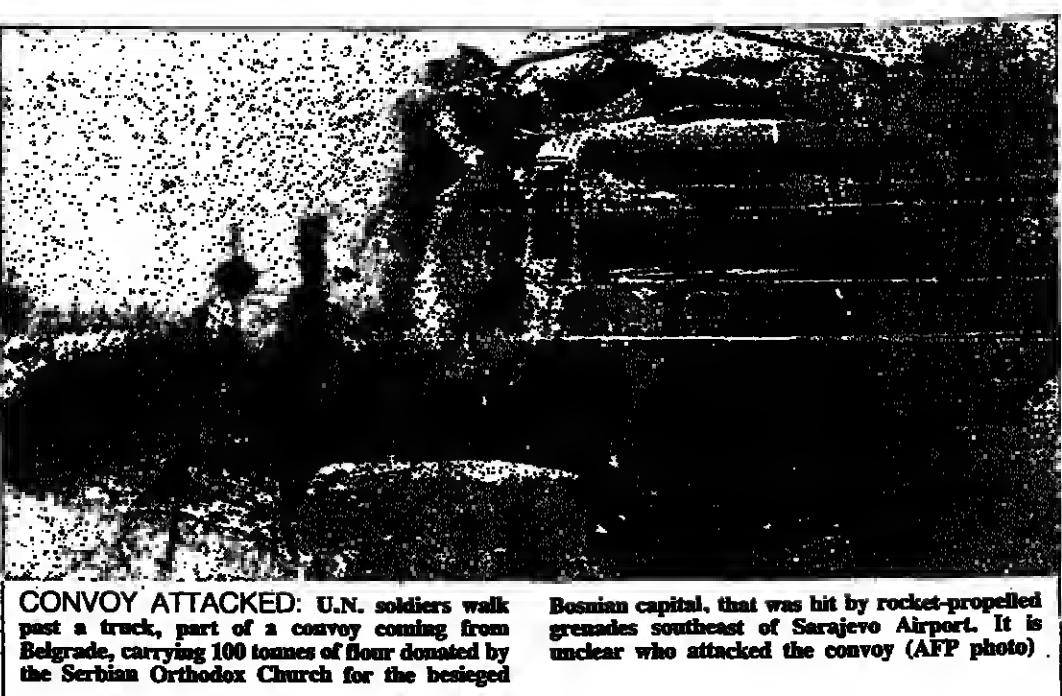
The agenda does not mention the word "impeachment," and

says only that it will study "the observance of the constitution of the Russian Federation by the supreme power structures and top officials of the Russian Federation."

The battle between Mr. Yeltsin and the Congress is a result of the failure to create a new political system spelling out the powers of each branch of government in post-Communist Russia.

Under Soviet rule, the Communist Party held a monopoly on power, controlling all branches of government, the military and the security apparatus.

The Congress, which is dominated by former Communists elected before the collapse of the Soviet Union, wants to hold supreme power, while Mr. Yeltsin is trying to create a strong presidency.



CONVOY ATTACKED: U.N. soldiers walk past a track, part of a convoy coming from Belgrade, carrying 100 tonnes of flour donated by the Serbian Orthodox Church for the besieged Bosnian capital, that was hit by rocket-propelled grenades southeast of Sarajevo Airport. It is unclear who attacked the convoy (AFP photo)



Prince Philip to drive taxi

LONDON (AP) — Prince Philip has ordered one of London's trademark black cabs for driving himself about town when a chauffeur-driven royal limousine doesn't suit the occasion.

Prince Philip tested a cab on the grounds of Buckingham Palace before placing the £20,000 order, said a spokesman for Metrocab, the company which makes London's box shaped taxis. The royal cab will be dark green, rather than black, with grey velour upholstery and carpets. It will have a passenger seat allow a security officer to sit next to the driver.

Prince Philip, the 71-year-old husband of Queen Elizabeth II, is known to occasionally dismiss his chauffeur and drive himself.

S. African police arrest 3 suspects in massacre

JOHANNESBURG (AP) — Police have arrested three suspects and confiscated automatic rifles following a mass shooting that claimed 10 black lives in the eastern province of Natal, authorities said Sunday.

The Friday night attack on a minibus near Pietermaritzburg is believed to be revenge for a March 2 massacre in the same

area in which six schoolchildren were gunned down in their school bus.

Police spokesman Craig Kotze said the two attacks are thought to be part of an ongoing feud between the African National Congress (ANC) and the Inkatha Freedom Party (IFP), the country's two largest black groups.

The two parties have been battling for supremacy in Natal since the mid-1980s, leaving thousands dead.

The victims of the Friday night attack were believed to be ANC supporters, while several of the slain schoolchildren had parents with ties to Inkatha, a conservative Zulu movement.

Police did not release the suspects' names or say if they were affiliated with any group. Authorities confiscated four rifles when making the arrests Saturday night and Sunday morning.

Police also have arrested three people in connection with the shooting of the schoolchildren, but have not divulged details on those suspects either.

Political kingpin detained in shock to Japanese party

TOKYO (AP) — Shin Kanemaru, the former power broker who became a focus of public ire over Japan's endemic political scandals, was held in a detention centre Sunday, accused of massive tax evasion.

Analysts saw the case as another spur to reform of a system in which politicians rely more on vast amounts of donated money than on their political ideas to win office and amass influence.

Mr. Kanemaru, 78, was arrested Saturday on suspicion of not reporting 800 million yen (\$6.7 million) of income earned in 1987 and 1989, prosecutors said.

The man who helped the last four prime ministers to power, including present Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa, was in the Tokyo Detention Centre, where many of the cells are just 4.6 square metres. Centre officials, however, refused to say what type cell Mr. Kanemaru had.

Prosecutors had up to 21 more days to decide whether to charge him. Before the decision is made, he cannot be freed on bail.

If found guilty, Mr. Kanemaru would face a maximum penalty of five years in prison and a 5 million yen (\$42,900) fine, in addition to any tax payments and penalties.

Angola rebels claim victory in Huambo

LUANDA (AP) — UNITA rebels said Sunday they overran government forces and captured Angola's second largest city after a two-month battle.

In a rebel radio broadcast, UNITA General Demosthenes Chinguita said rebel forces had overrun the last two Angolan army garrisons in Huambo and captured 5,000 soldiers, including high-ranking officers.

The government would neither confirm or deny the report that UNITA — the National Union for the Total Independence of Angola — had taken the city 530 kilometres southeast of Luanda, the capital.

Defeat in Huambo would be a serious setback for the government, which has committed tens of thousands of troops to what has become the key battle in Angola's renewed civil war.

Military officials estimated two weeks ago that more than 10,000 people have been killed since government troops tried to overrun the rebel compound in Huambo on Jan. 9.

The central highlands city, once the home of 400,000 people, became headquarters for UNITA leader Jonas Savimbi and his rebel army after UNITA rejected the results of the country's first multiparty elections in September.

Peace accords signed between UNITA and the government in May 1991 called for the elections and were thought to have ended Angola's 16-year civil war, which broke out on the eve of independence from Portugal in 1975.

Another new S. Korean minister comes under fire

SEOUL (AP) — A confidant of President Kim Young Sam offered Sunday to resign as justice minister to help ease the week-old administration's embarrassment over ethics questions.

"I don't want to become a stumbling block to President Kim's reform," said Park Hee-Tae. He already had apologized because his daughter used her U.S. citizenship to avoid rigorous college entrance examinations by taking advantage of a special admission quota for foreigners.

This offer came amid mounting public criticism that another cabinet member had accumulated wealth unethically.

Mr. Kim, inaugurated on Feb. 25 as South Korea's first civilian president in 32 years, has said rooting out pervasive corruption will be a key task of his government.

It was not known whether Mr. Kim had accepted the justice minister's resignation, but aides said at least one minister might be replaced Monday.

On Sunday, the main opposition Democratic Party demanded that Health and Social Minister Park Yang Sil be fired immediately "to assuage the public anger."

Ms. Park, a doctor, was one of three women named to the 24 member cabinet. She has denied

wrongdoing, but newspapers have reported that she owns millions of dollars worth of real estate, some in the names of her children.

While not in themselves illegal, acquiring large amounts of land and land speculation are considered unethical in South Korea.

Aides said Mr. Kim has ordered checks on the financial backgrounds of senior government officials. Those found to have amassed wealth through unethical means will be replaced, they added.

"Public servants have to stay clean to enforce laws in a fair manner," Mr. Kim said in a nationwide telecast.

The Seoul mayor was fired last week after he was accused of misusing public lands by building in a protected green belt.

A chief presidential aide was replaced after one of his relatives was found to have assassinated a nationalist leader.

Public expectations run high for Mr. Kim, a former dissident, who has vowed to wipe out corruption and bureaucracy that grew under military-dominated governments over the last three decades.

South Korea had been ruled by ex-generals since former President Park Chung-Hee seized power in a 1960 coup.

Chechen Republic accuses Russia of Moscow killings

AMMAN (J.T.) — The foreign minister of the Autonomous Republic of Chechnya in the Russian Federation, Shamseddin Yousef, has condemned the killings of a number of Chechens recently in Moscow.

According to a press release received from the Information Bureau of Chechnya in Amman, the Russian Intelligence Service is suspected of organising the Moscow killings.

The statement also blamed the Russian Intelligence Service for blowing up a train in the autonomous republic last week which killed 13 passengers and injured 12 others.

"We regret that the great state of Russia uses such criminal and disgraceful methods to fight against people who finally began to taste their long-lost freedom at last," the press release said.

Thatcher urges more aid for Russia

LONDON (AP) — World leaders must increase their "minute" levels of aid to Russia to keep President E. B. Yeltsin in power, Margaret Thatcher said in an interview published in the Sunday Express.

"If Russia goes into chaos and into the hands of another strong man, it will be partly the result of present day politicians who have been short of vision," Baroness Thatcher was quoted as saying.

"It has not cost us a fortune to defeat communism, yet the aid we are offering is minute," she said.

"How much would we have offered 10 years ago if the Soviet leadership had come to us and said we will end communism? How much would we have offered then? We would have offered a fortune," she said.

Lady Thatcher's comments

come amid a new political crisis in Moscow, where Mr. Yeltsin is under renewed attack from pro-Communists and hardline lawmakers he accuses of blocking economic reforms.

A showdown over who rules Russia is expected when the Congress of People's Deputies, the country's highest legislative body, opens an emergency session Wednesday.

London newspapers, Saturday and Sunday quoted unnamed intelligence sources as saying tension was higher in Moscow than at any time since the August 1991 coup which temporarily ousted Mikhail Gorbachev from power and led to the collapse of the Soviet Union.

Lady Thatcher, a skeptic of closer European integration, told the Sunday Express that Britain could halve its contributions to the European Community and

send the money to Russia, instead.

"We could give £1.3 billion (\$1.07 billion) to Russia to help them form their political parties and help them set up businesses," she was quoted as saying.

The Sunday Express said Lady Thatcher called for a new Marshall plan, the programme that restored democracy and economic order to Germany after World War II, but it did not elaborate.

The group of seven industrialised nations last year pledged \$24 billion in aid to Russia and the other former Soviet republics. The package included direct aid as well as export credits and technical advice.

Britain says it has allocated about £1 billion (\$1.44 billion) to Russia since 1991, half of it bilaterally, half through the European Community.

Detentions sully Zambian leader's record

LUSAKA, Zambia (AP) — President Frederick Chiluba's government has arrested at least 21 opposition politicians under state of emergency regulations, raising doubts about his commitment to human rights.

Mr. Chiluba came to power in a 1991 election that restored democracy to the impoverished southern African nation. But he imposed the state of emergency Thursday night following reports

that the opposition United National Independence Party (UNIP) was plotting to topple his government.

Among the 21 detainees are two sons of Kenneth Kaunda, Zambia's founding father and the man Mr. Chiluba succeeded as president. More detentions are considered likely.

"It is a far cry from democracy," Mr. Kaunda said Sunday in an interview. "It can't continue

or the people will explode. The government is mad. They are sick with their own power."

Mr. Chiluba said the plotters were backed by "foreign help," a reference to Iran and Iraq, countries with whom Mr. Kaunda had close ties. Their embassies in Lusaka have denied any involvement.

Zambia has not suffered any civil unrest since Mr. Chiluba's election 17 months ago.

Groups see restored U.S. leadership against world population growth

WASHINGTON (AP) — Population experts who last year accused the United States of shirking its global role in family planning now see signs of restored U.S. leadership under President Bill Clinton.

In drawing up an annual list of "picks and pans" for release Monday, officials of Population Action International praised steps Mr. Clinton already has taken, including lifting bans on a birth control counseling that affected both foreign and domestic programmes.

Leadership is critical, family planning advocates say, because world population is increasing by 1 billion people every 11 years, threatening human survival as well as the environmental stability of the planet.

The list of "picks" praises Iran

and four other countries that have expanded access to family planning services. The "pan" list criticises Russia and four others for lagging on family planning. The United States topped last year's "pan" list as a country with "failed political leadership" on population issues.

The United States does not appear on this year's lists, but the report says Mr. Clinton's election promises a reversal in Reagan administration policies that "have had such negative effects on family planning programmes at home and overseas."

Indonesia, Bangladesh, Peru and Zimbabwe are cited as successes and Pakistan, Poland, Iraq and Ireland as failures.

A report last week by Johns Hopkins University noted that family planning efforts have

helped reduce fertility in developing countries from six children per couple in the 1960s to four today. It also pointed to high demand for birth control in a world where population growth is still an alarming problem.

"Many in the population community expect Mr. Clinton to reverse the policy disasters of the Reagan and Bush administrations rapidly," says Population Action International's Senior Vice President, Sharon L. Camp, in an article published in the journal Foreign Policy.

She writes that if all developing countries followed the most effective policies and the United States and other countries increased assistance to family planning programmes, "the population problem could be resolved in the lifetime of today's children."

138 U.S. fliers missing after cold war spy flights

WASHINGTON (AP) — The United States probed the coastal defences of the Soviet Union with thousands of "ferret" spy flights during the cold war and at least 31 flights were shot down, according to a published report.

At least 138 American pilots and crewmen who flew the highly secret espionage flights in the 1950s and 1960s remain unaccounted for, according to data developed by U.S. News and World Report and the ABC news programme, Primetime Live.

Citing U.S. declassified government records, the two news organisations said that at least 252 American airmen were shot down while flying espionage or support missions between 1950 and 1970.

According to the U.S. News report, 25 are known to have

been killed while 90 are known to have survived.

The official cover story at the time was that any planes flying near Soviet borders were engaged in "electromagnetic research" or "photographic mapping missions," U.S. News said.

The U.S. government publicly has admitted to one violation of Soviet air space: The 1960 U-2 flight of Francis Gary Powers, in which the airman was shot down, creating an international incident that strained ties between the two superpowers.

The news magazine also said that the large number of airmen unaccounted for indicates that some must have been captured and imprisoned.

Next month, a U.S. task force will be in Russia to ask authorities about the whereabouts of the missing airmen, the report said.



HINDU FESTIVAL: Two Nepali youth with painted faces and hands embrace inside a rickshaw during the ancient Hindu festival of Holi in the Himalayan kingdom. Millions of people take part in the celebration of friendship and reconciliation by painting faces and dousing brightly-coloured water on friends and strangers alike (AFP photo)

Wartime pilot leaves medals to museum

LONDON (AP) — Britain's most decorated wartime pilot, Lord Cheshire, who died last year, has left his Victoria Cross and other World War II medals to the Imperial War Museum in London, his family revealed.

Lord Cheshire died of motor neurone disease last July. He was 74. "He thought the medals would be of interest to people visiting the museum, especially the younger generation," said his widow, Lady Ryder of Warsaw.

"He gave his log book and his uniform to the museum some time ago." During World War II, Geoffrey Leonard Cheshire flew more than 100 bombing missions over Germany, when the average pilot's life expectancy was 25 missions. He was awarded the Victoria Cross in 1944 as a Royal Air Force pilot with "a record second to none in Bomber Command... placing himself invariably in the forefront of the battle," according to the citation.